

# Uncorrelated Gardner's Problem

Ruilin Li

## 1 Introduction

Consider the following problem: let  $\mathbf{g}^1, \dots, \mathbf{g}^m \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be i.i.d. standard  $n$ -dimensional Gaussian random variables, and  $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$  is a fixed number. Define

$$A = \bigcap_{l=1}^m \{\mathbf{x} \in S^{n-1} : \mathbf{g}^l \cdot \mathbf{x} \geq \kappa\}$$

where  $S^{n-1}$  is the  $n-1$  dimensional sphere embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Clearly with probability one the set  $A$  will shrink as  $m$  increases. The problem of interest is that, if we set  $m = \alpha n$ , how large can  $\alpha$  be such that  $A$  is non-empty with high probability. By high probability, we mean that there exists a constant  $c > 0$  such that

$$\mathbb{P}(A \text{ is empty}) < e^{-cn}. \quad (1)$$

Such problem occurs in the perceptron model, which is defined by the following dynamics. Suppose for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $H_i^t \in \{-1, 1\}$  are the states of the neuron at time  $t$ , and for each  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ ,  $x_j^i \in \mathbb{R}$  is the interaction strength from neuron  $j$  to neuron  $i$ . We require that for each  $i$ ,  $x_i^i = 0$ , and

$$\sum_{j=1}^n (x_j^i)^2 = 1$$

The  $i$ th neuron fires at time  $t$  if  $H_i^t = 1$ , and does not fire if  $H_i^t = -1$ . The state of a neuron is updated according to:

$$H_i^{t+1} = \text{sign}\left(\sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n H_j^t x_j^i\right).$$

Given interaction strength  $x_j^i$ , the pattern  $\mathbf{H} = (H_1, \dots, H_n)$  is memorized by the perceptron if  $\mathbf{H}$  is a fixed point of the above dynamics, that is for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$

$$H_i^{t+1} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n H_j^t x_j^i \right) \geq 0.$$

Here to ensure stability we also require

$$H_i \left( \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n H_j x_j^i \right) \geq \kappa \quad (2)$$

for a fixed constant  $\kappa > 0$ . We are interested in the generic capacity of the perceptron: how many random patterns can we take, so that there is a high probability that there exists a set of interaction strength satisfying (2) for all of the random patterns. Although in our definition the states of the neurons can only take  $-1$  and  $1$ , here we will relax this assumption and allow the states to be any real number. Moreover, we will take the random pattern  $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  to come from the  $n$ -dimensional standard Gaussian distribution.

To be more precise, let  $m = \alpha n$  to be the number of random patterns. For  $l = 1, \dots, m$ ,  $\mathbf{g}^l \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a random pattern generated from a standard Gaussian distribution. Let  $g_i^l \in \mathbb{R}$  be the  $i$ th coordinate of  $\mathbf{g}^l$ , and  $\mathbf{g}_{-i}^l \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$  be the rest of the coordinates of  $\mathbf{g}^l$ . We are then interested in the probability of the event:

$$E = \{ \forall i, \exists \mathbf{x} \in S^{n-2} \text{ such that } \text{sign}(g_i^l)(\mathbf{g}_{-i}^l \cdot \mathbf{x}) \geq \kappa \forall l \}$$

which means that the perceptron can successfully remember all of the  $m$  random patterns. Then the negation of  $E$  can be written as:

$$E^c = \{ \exists i \text{ such that } \forall \mathbf{x} \in S^{n-2}, \text{sign}(g_i^l)(\mathbf{g}_{-i}^l \cdot \mathbf{x}) < \kappa \text{ for some } l \}.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(E^c) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}(\forall \mathbf{x} \in S^{n-2}, \exists l \leq m \text{ such that } \text{sign}(g_i^l)(\mathbf{g}_{-i}^l \cdot \mathbf{x}) < \kappa) \\ &= n \mathbb{P}(\forall \mathbf{x} \in S^{n-2}, \exists l \leq m \text{ such that } \text{sign}(g_1^l)(\mathbf{g}_{-1}^l \cdot \mathbf{x}) < \kappa) \\ &= n \mathbb{P}(\forall \mathbf{x} \in S^{n-2}, \exists l \leq m \text{ such that } (\mathbf{g}_{-1}^l \cdot \mathbf{x}) < \kappa) \\ &= n \mathbb{P} \left( \bigcap_{l=1}^m \{ \mathbf{x} \in S^{n-2} : \mathbf{g}_{-1}^l \cdot \mathbf{x} \geq \kappa \} \text{ is empty} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$\mathbb{P}(E) \leq \mathbb{P} \left( \bigcap_{l=1}^m \{ \mathbf{x} \in S^{n-2} : \mathbf{g}_{-1}^l \cdot \mathbf{x} \geq \kappa \} \text{ is not empty} \right).$$

It is clear now that the perceptron capacity problem above is exactly the same problem at the beginning of the section, except  $n - 1$  in (1) becomes  $n - 2$  here. This

change will not affect our analysis on  $\alpha$ . If for some particular choice of  $\alpha$  I can show that (1) is true, then  $\mathbb{P}(E^c)$  also decays exponentially in  $n$  (since multiplying by  $n$  does not change exponential decay rate). Therefore, the rest of the write-up will focus on solving the  $\alpha$  so that (1) is satisfied. I mentioned an upper bound for  $P(E)$  because more can be said about (1). In fact, as you will see in the next section, one of  $\mathbb{P}(A \text{ is empty})$  and  $\mathbb{P}(A \text{ is not empty})$  will have exponential decay.

## 2 Solution To the Uncorrelated Gardner's Problem

We begin this section by stating the solution to the problem in the first section.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $A, m, n$ , and  $\alpha$  be defined same as in section 1. Let  $g$  be a standard one dimensional Gaussian random variable and  $(g + \kappa)_+$  be the positive part of the random variable  $g + \kappa$ . Then,*

$$\alpha \mathbb{E}(g + \kappa)_+^2 > 1, \kappa \in \mathbb{R} \implies \exists c > 0 \text{ such that } \mathbb{P}(A \text{ is empty}) \geq 1 - e^{-cn} \quad (3)$$

and

$$\alpha \mathbb{E}(g + \kappa)_+^2 < 1, \kappa > 0 \implies \exists c > 0 \text{ such that } \mathbb{P}(A \text{ is not empty}) \geq 1 - e^{-cn} \quad (4)$$

### 2.1 Proof of the First Part of Theorem 1

Assume  $\alpha \mathbb{E}(g + \kappa)_+^2 > 1$ , and  $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $G$  be a  $m \times n$  matrix whose entries are i.i.d. standard Gaussian random variables, and  $\mathbf{1} = (1, \dots, 1)^T \in \mathbb{R}^m$ . Then  $A$  is non-empty if and only if there exists  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{S}^{n-1}$  such that

$$G\mathbf{x} \geq \kappa \mathbf{1}$$

where the inequality of two vectors should be interpreted as coordinate-wise inequalities. We notice that the above condition is equivalent to the following one, let  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^m$

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \text{ with } \|\mathbf{x}\| = 1, \|\lambda\| \leq 1$$

For the remainder of this section, I will assume that  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1, \|\lambda\| \leq 1$ . Therefore, to show (3) it suffices to show that there exists  $\delta, c > 0$ , such that

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x}) \geq \delta\right) \geq 1 - e^{-cn}$$

We start with the following observation. Let  $g$  be a one-dimensional standard Gaussian random variable, independent of the entries in  $G$ , then for any  $\delta, \varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x}) + g - \varepsilon\sqrt{n} + \delta \geq \delta\right) &\leq \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x}) \geq \delta\right) \\ &\quad + \mathbb{P}(g \geq \varepsilon\sqrt{n} - \delta) \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

The second term on the right-hand side is easy to bound from above. For now we will first focus on the probability on the left-hand side. To do this, we will use the following theorem:

**Theorem 2. (Gordon's Inequality)** Let  $(X_{ij})_{i \leq n, j \leq m}$ ,  $(Y_{ij})_{i \leq n, j \leq m}$  be centered Gaussian random variables, such that

1.  $\mathbb{E}(X_{ij}^2) = \mathbb{E}(Y_{ij}^2)$  for all  $i \leq n, j \leq m$
2.  $\mathbb{E}(X_{ij}X_{ik}) \geq \mathbb{E}(Y_{ij}Y_{ik})$  for all  $i \leq n, j \leq m$
3.  $\mathbb{E}(X_{ij}X_{lk}) \leq \mathbb{E}(Y_{ij}Y_{lk})$  for  $l \neq i$

then for any choice of  $\beta_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\min_i \max_j (X_{ij} - \beta_{ij}) \geq 0\right) \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\min_i \max_j (Y_{ij} - \beta_{ij}) \geq 0\right)$$

Here we will use  $-\lambda_i^T G\mathbf{x}_j + g$  to be the  $Y_{ij}$  in the theorem, and  $\lambda_i^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{h}$  to be the  $X_{ij}$  in the theorem, where  $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{R}^m, \mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are independent standard Gaussian random variables. Let's check if the conditions in theorem 2 are satisfied. For each  $i, j, l, k$ , since the entries of  $G$  are i.i.d. standard Gaussian random variables, it is not difficult to verify that

$$\mathbb{E}(-\lambda_i^T G\mathbf{x}_j + g)(-\lambda_i^T G\mathbf{x}_k + g) = (\lambda_i^T \lambda_l)(\mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_k) + 1$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}(\lambda_i^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{h})(\lambda_i^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}_k^T \mathbf{h}) = (\lambda_i^T \lambda_l) + (\mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_k)$$

If  $i = l, j = k$

$$\mathbb{E}(-\lambda_i^T G\mathbf{x}_j + g)^2 = 2 = \mathbb{E}(\lambda_i^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{h})^2$$

If  $i = l$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}(-\lambda_i^T G\mathbf{x}_j + g)(-\lambda_i^T G\mathbf{x}_k + g) = 1 + (\mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_k) = \mathbb{E}(\lambda_i^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{h})(\lambda_i^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}_k^T \mathbf{h})$$

If  $i \neq l$ , by Cauchy-Schwartz inequality

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E}(-\lambda_i^T G\mathbf{x}_j + g)(-\lambda_i^T G\mathbf{x}_k + g) - \mathbb{E}(\lambda_i^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{h})(\lambda_i^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}_k^T \mathbf{h}) \\ &= (\lambda_i^T \lambda_l)(\mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_k) + 1 - (\mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_k) - (\lambda_i^T \lambda_l) \\ &= (1 - \lambda_i^T \lambda_l)(1 - \mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_k) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by Gordon's inequality, we have

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T \kappa \mathbf{1} - \lambda^T G\mathbf{x} + g - \varepsilon\sqrt{n} \geq 0\right) \geq \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T \kappa \mathbf{1} + \lambda^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{h} - \varepsilon\sqrt{n} \geq 0\right)$$

Now we can find the optimum choice of  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\lambda$  on the right-hand side explicitly. The optimum is achieved when  $\mathbf{x} = -\mathbf{h}/\|\mathbf{h}\|$ ,  $\lambda$  is in the same direction of  $(\mathbf{g} + \boldsymbol{\kappa})_+ = (\max\{g_i + \kappa, 0\})_{i=1}^m$  ( $g_i$  is the  $i$ th coordinate of  $\mathbf{g}$ ).

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T \boldsymbol{\kappa} \mathbf{1} + \lambda^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{h} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (g_i + \kappa)_+^2} - \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n}$$

By our assumption, we can choose  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough such that

$$\sqrt{\alpha \mathbb{E}(g + \boldsymbol{\kappa})_+^2} - 1 - 3\varepsilon > 0 \implies \sqrt{m \mathbb{E}(g + \boldsymbol{\kappa})_+^2} - \sqrt{n} - 2\varepsilon \sqrt{n} \geq \varepsilon \sqrt{n}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T \boldsymbol{\kappa} \mathbf{1} - \lambda^T G \mathbf{x} + g - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \geq 0\right) \\ & \geq \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T \boldsymbol{\kappa} \mathbf{1} + \lambda^T \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{h} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \geq 0\right) \\ & = \mathbb{P}\left(\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (g_i + \kappa)_+^2} - \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \geq 0\right) \\ & \geq \mathbb{P}\left(\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (g_i + \kappa)_+^2} - \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} \geq \sqrt{m \mathbb{E}(g + \boldsymbol{\kappa})_+^2} - \sqrt{n} - 2\varepsilon \sqrt{n}\right) \\ & = 1 - \mathbb{P}\left(\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (g_i + \kappa)_+^2} - \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} < \sqrt{m \mathbb{E}(g + \boldsymbol{\kappa})_+^2} - \sqrt{n} - 2\varepsilon \sqrt{n}\right) \\ & \geq 1 - \mathbb{P}\left(\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (g_i + \kappa)_+^2} \leq \sqrt{m \mathbb{E}(g + \boldsymbol{\kappa})_+^2} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n}\right) - \mathbb{P}\left(\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} \geq \sqrt{n} + \varepsilon \sqrt{n}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Take the square of the two inequalities in the last line, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^m (g_i + \kappa)_+^2 & \leq m \mathbb{E}(g + \boldsymbol{\kappa})_+^2 - (2\varepsilon \sqrt{\alpha \mathbb{E}(g + \boldsymbol{\kappa})_+^2} - \varepsilon^2) n \\ \sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2 & \geq n + (2\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2) n^2 \end{aligned}$$

Set  $C_\varepsilon = 2\varepsilon \sqrt{\alpha \mathbb{E}(g + \boldsymbol{\kappa})_+^2} - \varepsilon^2$ ,  $C'_\varepsilon = 2\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2$ . Let  $X_i = -(g_i + \kappa)_+^2$  or  $X_i = h_i^2$ ,  $N = n$  or  $N = m$ , and  $C = C_\varepsilon$  or  $C = C'_\varepsilon$ . Then above showed that both probabilities in (6) can be written in the form

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq Cn\right)$$

where  $X_i$  are i.i.d. random variables. By Markov's inequality, for any  $t > 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq Cn\right) &= \mathbb{P}\left(\exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i)t\right) \geq e^{tCn}\right) \\ &\leq e^{-tCn} \left[\mathbb{E}\left(\exp(t(X_1 - \mathbb{E}X_1))\right)\right]^N \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Apply Taylor expansion to  $\mathbb{E}\left(\exp(t(X_1 - \mathbb{E}X_1))\right)$ , the order one term vanishes we have

$$\mathbb{E}\left(\exp(t(X_1 - \mathbb{E}X_1))\right) \leq 1 + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \mathbb{E}|X_1 - \mathbb{E}X_1|^k$$

Moreover, for each  $k \geq 2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}|h_1^2 - 1|^k &\leq 2^k + 2^k \mathbb{E}h_1^{2k} \\ &= 2^k + 2^k(2k-1)(2k-3)\cdots 1 \\ &< 2^k + 2^k(2k)(2k-2)(2k-4)\cdots 2 \\ &= 2^k + 2^{2k}k! \leq a^k k! \end{aligned}$$

for some  $a > 0$ . By similar arguments, above holds when  $X_i = -(g_i + \kappa)_+^2$  (possible with a different choice of  $a$ ). Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\left(\exp(t(X_1 - \mathbb{E}X_1))\right) &\leq 1 + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \mathbb{E}|X_1 - \mathbb{E}X_1|^k \\ &\leq 1 + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} a^k k! = 1 + \frac{t^2 a^2}{1 - ta} \end{aligned}$$

Choose  $0 < t < 1/2a$ , then

$$\mathbb{E}\left(\exp(t(X_1 - \mathbb{E}X_1))\right) \leq 1 + \frac{t^2 a^2}{1 - ta} \leq 1 + 2t^2 a^2 \leq e^{2t^2 a^2}$$

Now go back to (7), if  $N = n$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq Cn\right) \leq (e^{-tC+2t^2 a^2})^n$$

Recall that  $C \sim O(\varepsilon)$ , so we can choose  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough such that  $t = C/4a^2$  and  $t \leq 1/2a$ . Then

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq Cn\right) \leq e^{-nC^2/8a^2}$$

Similarly, if  $N = m = n\alpha$ , we can further reduce  $\varepsilon > 0$  (if needed), so that  $t' = C/(4a^2\alpha)$ , and  $t' < 1/2a$ . Then by (7)

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq Cn\right) \leq (e^{-tC+2t^2a^2\alpha})^n \leq e^{-nC^2/8\alpha a^2}$$

We have showed that both probabilities in the last line of (6) decreases exponentially in  $n$ . Moreover  $\mathbb{P}(g \geq \varepsilon\sqrt{n} - \delta)$  decays exponentially in  $n$ . Therefore, by (5) there exists  $c > 0$  such that

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x}) \geq \delta\right) \geq 1 - e^{-cn}$$

which implies

$$\mathbb{P}(A \text{ is empty}) \geq 1 - e^{-cn}.$$

## 2.2 Proof of the Second Part of Theorem 1

Now assume  $\alpha\mathbb{E}(g + \kappa)_+^2 < 1$ , and  $\kappa \geq 0$ . We want to show that the event  $\{\exists \mathbf{x}$  such that  $G\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{1}\kappa\}$  has high probability. I have shown in the last section that this event is equivalent to the event  $\{\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x}) \leq 0\}$  with constraints  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1, \|\lambda\| \leq 1$ . Here this condition is also equivalent to  $\{\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x}) \leq 0\}$  with the relaxed condition  $\|\mathbf{x}\| \leq 1, \|\lambda\| \leq 1$ , giving us a convex constraint. To proceed, we will use the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.** (Simplified version of Sion's Minimax Theorem) Let  $U, V$  be two convex compact subset of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ . If  $f$  is a continuous real-valued function on  $U \times V$  with:

1. For all  $x_1, x_2 \in U, y \in V, t \in [0, 1], f(tx_1 + (1-t)x_2, y) \geq \min\{f(x_1, y), f(x_2, y)\}$
2. For all  $y_1, y_2 \in V, x \in U, t \in [0, 1], f(x, ty_1 + (1-t)y_2) \leq \max\{f(x, y_1), f(x, y_2)\}$

Then

$$\min_{x \in U} \max_{y \in V} f(x, y) = \max_{y \in V} \min_{x \in U} f(x, y).$$

Fixing one of  $\lambda$  and  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x})$  is an affine linear transformation, so it satisfies the condition in the above theorem. Therefore

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x}) = \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x})$$

which implies

$$-\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \lambda^T (\kappa \mathbf{1} - G\mathbf{x}) = \min_{\lambda \geq 0} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \lambda^T (G\mathbf{x} - \kappa \mathbf{1}).$$

$A$  is non-empty if and only if  $\min_{\lambda \geq 0} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \lambda^T (G\mathbf{x} - \kappa \mathbf{1}) \geq 0$ . To compute a probabilistic bound for such event, we start with the following inequality (We assume

the constraints  $\|\lambda\| \leq 1, \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq 1$ ). Let  $g, \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{h}$  be defined the same way as in the last section, then for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\lambda \geq 0} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \lambda^T G \mathbf{x} + g \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\lambda\| - \lambda^T \mathbf{1} \kappa - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\lambda\| \geq 0\right) \\ & \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\lambda \geq 0} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \lambda^T G \mathbf{x} - \lambda^T \mathbf{1} \kappa \geq 0\right) + \mathbb{P}(g \geq \varepsilon \sqrt{n}) \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

Again the second term on the left-hand side is bounded by  $e^{-\varepsilon^2 n/2}$ . We focus on the left-hand side.  $\lambda_i G \mathbf{x}_j + g \|\lambda_i\| \|\mathbf{x}_j\|$  will be the  $Y_{ij}$  in theorem 2.  $\|\mathbf{x}_i\| \mathbf{g}^T \lambda_j + \|\lambda_j\| \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x}_i$  will be the  $X_{ij}$  in theorem 2. Now let's check the conditions in theorem 2. For each  $i, j, l, k$

$$\mathbb{E}(\lambda_i G \mathbf{x}_j + g \|\lambda_i\| \|\mathbf{x}_j\|)(\lambda_l G \mathbf{x}_k + g \|\lambda_l\| \|\mathbf{x}_k\|) = (\lambda_i^T \lambda_l)(\mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_k) + \|\lambda_i\| \|\mathbf{x}_j\| \|\lambda_l\| \|\mathbf{x}_k\|$$

$$\mathbb{E}(\|\mathbf{x}_j\| \mathbf{g}^T \lambda_i + \|\lambda_i\| \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x}_j)(\|\mathbf{x}_k\| \mathbf{g}^T \lambda_l + \|\lambda_l\| \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x}_k) = \|\mathbf{x}_j\| \|\mathbf{x}_k\| \lambda_i^T \lambda_l + \|\lambda_i\| \|\lambda_l\| \mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_k$$

By similar arguments in section 2.1, it is easy to verify that the conditions in theorem 2 are satisfied. Therefore, by Gordon's inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\lambda \geq 0} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \lambda^T G \mathbf{x} + g \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\lambda\| - \lambda^T \mathbf{1} \kappa - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\lambda\| \geq 0\right) \geq \\ & \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\lambda \geq 0} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{g}^T \lambda + \|\lambda\| \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x} - \lambda^T \mathbf{1} \kappa - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\lambda\| \geq 0\right) \quad (9) \end{aligned}$$

Solving the maximization problem (terms does not depending on  $\mathbf{x}$  will not show below):

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{g}^T \lambda + \|\lambda\| \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\lambda\| \\ & = \max_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\| \left( \mathbf{g}^T \lambda - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\lambda\| + \frac{\|\lambda\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x} \right) \\ & = \max_{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \|\mathbf{x}\| \left( \mathbf{g}^T \lambda - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\lambda\| + \|\lambda\| \|\mathbf{h}\| \right) \\ & = \max \{0, \mathbf{g}^T \lambda - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\lambda\| + \|\lambda\| \|\mathbf{h}\|\} \\ & \geq \mathbf{g}^T \lambda - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\lambda\| + \|\lambda\| \|\mathbf{h}\| \end{aligned}$$

So we have:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\lambda \geq 0} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{g}^T \lambda + \|\lambda\| \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x} - \lambda^T \mathbf{1} \kappa - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\lambda\| \geq 0\right) \\ & \geq \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{\lambda \geq 0} \mathbf{g}^T \lambda - \lambda^T \mathbf{1} \kappa - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\lambda\| + \|\lambda\| \|\mathbf{h}\| \geq 0\right) \quad (10) \end{aligned}$$



Now we minimize  $\mathbf{g}^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} - \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T \mathbf{1} \boldsymbol{\kappa} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\| + \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\| \|\mathbf{h}\|$  over the feasible region of  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0} \mathbf{g}^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} - \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T \mathbf{1} \boldsymbol{\kappa} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\| + \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\| \|\mathbf{h}\| \\ &= \min_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0} \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\| \left( \frac{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^T}{\|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\|} (\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{1} \boldsymbol{\kappa}) - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} + \|\mathbf{h}\| \right) \\ &= \min_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0} \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\| \left( -\|(\mathbf{1} \boldsymbol{\kappa} - \mathbf{g})_+\| - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} + \|\mathbf{h}\| \right) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P} \left( \min_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0} \mathbf{g}^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} - \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T \mathbf{1} \boldsymbol{\kappa} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\| + \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\| \|\mathbf{h}\| \geq 0 \right) \\ &= \mathbb{P} \left[ \min_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0} \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}\| \left( -\|(\mathbf{1} \boldsymbol{\kappa} - \mathbf{g})_+\| - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} + \|\mathbf{h}\| \right) \geq 0 \right] \\ &= \mathbb{P} \left( -\|(\mathbf{1} \boldsymbol{\kappa} - \mathbf{g})_+\| - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} + \|\mathbf{h}\| \geq 0 \right) \\ &= \mathbb{P} \left( -\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g_i)_+^2} + \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \geq 0 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Notice that  $(\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g)_+^2$  and  $(\boldsymbol{\kappa} + g)_+^2$  have the same distribution. By our assumption, we can find  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that

$$\sqrt{\alpha \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g)_+^2} - 1 + 3\varepsilon < 0 \implies -\sqrt{m \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g)_+^2} + \sqrt{n} - 2\varepsilon \sqrt{n} > \varepsilon \sqrt{n}.$$

This implies

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P} \left( -\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g_i)_+^2} + \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \geq 0 \right) \\ & \geq \mathbb{P} \left( -\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g_i)_+^2} + \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} \geq -\sqrt{m \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g)_+^2} + \sqrt{n} - 2\varepsilon \sqrt{n} \right) \\ &= 1 - \mathbb{P} \left( -\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g_i)_+^2} + \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} < -\sqrt{m \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g)_+^2} + \sqrt{n} - 2\varepsilon \sqrt{n} \right) \\ & \geq 1 - \mathbb{P} \left( \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m (\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g_i)_+^2} > \sqrt{m \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{\kappa} - g)_+^2} + \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \right) - \mathbb{P} \left( \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2} \leq \sqrt{n} - \varepsilon \sqrt{n} \right) \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

By similar arguments in section 2.1, there exists  $c > 0$ , such that

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \min_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T G \mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T \mathbf{1} \boldsymbol{\kappa} \geq 0 \right) \geq 1 - e^{-cn}.$$

Therefore,

$$\mathbb{P}(A \text{ is not empty}) \geq 1 - e^{-cn}$$

**References**

1. Stojnic, M.: Another Look at the Gardner Problem, 2013
2. Professor Panchenko's lecture notes