

# Supplemental Material for *Test of Weak Separability for Spatially Stationary Functional Field.*

Decai Liang, Hui Huang, Yongtao Guan and Fang Yao\*

This supplementary material provides some discussions and additional results of spatial stationarity and Gaussian assumption in Section S.1 and S.2, some implementation issues for the choices of truncation parameter and spatial lag in Section S.3, additional simulation results in Section S.4, and some technical proofs for the propositions and lemmas in Section S.5.

## S.1 Issues about the Spatial Stationarity

### S.1.1 Some extensions for non-stationary data

To provide theoretical justification of the test statistics based on the lag covariance, we assume the spatial functional field  $X(\mathbf{s}, t)$  is second-order stationary, which actually contains the following three aspects:

- (i) first-order stationarity for the mean function:  $\mu(\mathbf{s}, t) = \mu(t)$ ,
- (ii) second-order stationarity for the covariance function:  $C(\mathbf{s}, t_1; \mathbf{s}, t_2) = C(t_1, t_2)$ ,
- (iii) second-order stationarity for the cross covariance function:  $C(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1; \mathbf{s}_2, t_2) = C^{(\mathbf{h})}(t_1, t_2)$ ,  
where  $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{s}_1 - \mathbf{s}_2$ .

We clarify that the spatial stationarity as specified above is a different issue from weak separability and is assumed primarily due to the lack of data replication. On the other hand, if replicates of the spatial functional field are available, one can perform the test

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following a similar procedure as that in our paper. Suppose we observe i.i.d samples  $\{X_i(\mathbf{s}, t); i = 1, \dots, n\}$ , and let  $\bar{X}(s, t) = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i(\mathbf{s}, t)$ ,  $\tilde{X}_i(\mathbf{s}, t) = X_i(\mathbf{s}, t) - \bar{X}(s, t)$ . Then  $C(\mathbf{s}, t_1; \mathbf{s}, t_2)$  and  $C(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1; \mathbf{s}_2, t_2)$  can be estimated by the sample covariance  $\hat{C}_{\mathbf{s}}(t_1, t_2) = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{X}_i(\mathbf{s}, t_1) \tilde{X}_i(\mathbf{s}, t_2)$  for any  $\mathbf{s}$ , and  $\hat{C}_{\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2}(t_1, t_2) = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{X}_i(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1) \tilde{X}_i(\mathbf{s}_2, t_2)$  for any  $\mathbf{s}_1$  and  $\mathbf{s}_2$ , without extra assumptions such as stationarity. Similarly to our paper,  $\xi_{i,r}(\mathbf{s})$  could be estimated by the projection of  $X_i(\mathbf{s}, t)$  onto  $\hat{\psi}_r(t)$ , which is the  $r$ -th eigenfunction of some empirical covariance operator, and we could propose the statistic

$$\begin{aligned} T_n(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2; j, k) &= n^{-1/2} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{\xi}_{ij}(\mathbf{s}_1) \hat{\xi}_{ik}(\mathbf{s}_2) \\ &= n^{-1/2} \iint \tilde{X}_i(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1) \tilde{X}_i(\mathbf{s}_2, t_2) \hat{\psi}_j(t_1) \hat{\psi}_k(t_2) dt_1 dt_2 \\ &= \sqrt{n} \iint \hat{C}_{\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2}(t_1, t_2) \hat{\psi}_j(t_1) \hat{\psi}_k(t_2) dt_1 dt_2 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.1})$$

for any  $\mathbf{s}_1$  and  $\mathbf{s}_2$ . Note that a similar degeneration would occur in (S.1) if  $\{\hat{\psi}_r(t)\}$  are the eigenfunctions of  $\hat{C}_{\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2}(t_1, t_2)$ . To avoid this,  $\hat{\psi}_r(t)$  could be obtained through the eigen-decomposition of the covariance  $C(\mathbf{s}, t_1; \mathbf{s}, t_2)$  for any  $\mathbf{s}$ , or the marginal covariance (Lynch and Chen, 2018)

$$\hat{C}_S(t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_S \tilde{X}_i(\mathbf{s}, t_1) \tilde{X}_i(\mathbf{s}, t_2) d\mathbf{s},$$

which aggregates the covariance information at each  $\mathbf{s}$ . A completely similar argument in our proof of Theorem 1 could be applied to derive the null distribution of  $T_n(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2; j, k)$ . As the proposed weak separability requires that  $\xi_{i,j}(\mathbf{s}_1)$  and  $\xi_{i,k}(\mathbf{s}_2)$  are uncorrelated for any  $\mathbf{s}_1$  and  $\mathbf{s}_2$ , one may further consider a collection of  $T_n(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2; j, k)$  at different  $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2$  to make the test more powerful. This would be another subject to study.

Besides the above extension to replicated spatio-temporal data, the test can also be carried out by relaxing the first-order stationarity. For example, one could apply a functional regression model

$$X(\mathbf{s}, t) = \sum_{j=1}^p Z_j(\mathbf{s}) \beta_j(t) + \varepsilon(\mathbf{s}, t),$$

where  $Z_j(\mathbf{s})$ 's are some spatial covariates and  $\beta_j(t)$ 's are the functional coefficients. Through the observed data  $\{X(\mathbf{s}_i, t)\}_{i=1, \dots, N}$ , this model can be then fitted using the method in Ramsay and Silverman (2005). Our test can then be performed based on the de-trended data  $X(\mathbf{s}_i, t) - \sum_{j=1}^p Z_j(\mathbf{s}_i) \hat{\beta}_j(t)$ , i.e. the residuals  $\hat{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{s}_i, t)_{i=1, \dots, N}$ . However, to test the weak separability of  $\varepsilon(\mathbf{s}, t)$ , we still need assumptions about the second-order properties (ii) and (iii).

### S.1.2 Sensitivity analysis about stationarity

In practice, one could check the assumed first-order and second-order stationarity for the non-replicated spatio-temporal data through some sensitivity analysis. In the analysis of the China’s PM<sub>2.5</sub> data, taking the NCP region for example. We compare the estimated mean functions of the six subregions of China and four inner subregions in the NCP region, respectively, as displayed in Figure S.1 and S.2. We can observe distinct mean patterns for the six subregions (evidence for non-stationarity) and a similar pattern for the four inner subregions (evidence for stationarity) in NCP. In addition, one may also perform some sensitivity analysis to check the assumed (second-order) stationarity, such as that in Section 8.3 of Zhang and Li (2020) through the FPCA approach. Specifically, we perform the FPCA procedure for the covariance and the lag covariance respectively on the whole NCP region and its two subregions. The corresponding FPC estimates agree well as shown in Figure S.3 and Figure S.4, which suggests that there is no serious violation of the (second-order) stationarity assumption. We have also done such exploratory analyses for the other five regions, as well as for the Harvard Forest data, and reach similar conclusion, which is not reported for brevity.

## S.2 Discussion about the Gaussian Assumption

As stated in our paper, the Gaussian assumption in Section 3.3 is applied to simplify the estimation of the asymptotic covariance  $\Gamma$  of the test statistics  $T_h(\mathbb{I}_{R_N})$ , which relies on the cross fourth-order moments of the FPC scores, i.e.,  $E(\xi_{i_1 j} \xi_{i_2 k} \xi_{i_3 j'} \xi_{i_4 k'})$ ,  $i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 = 1, \dots, N$ ,  $(j, k), (j', k') \in \mathbb{I}_{R_N}$ , as shown in (28) of our manuscript. Since only one realization of the spatial functional field or the spatio-temporal data can be observed, the ordinary moment estimators for the asymptotical covariance (e.g. Aston et al., 2017; Lynch and Chen, 2018) become unfeasible. This is essentially different from the replicated or two-way functional data and gives rise to challenges for statistical inference.

### S.2.1 Sensitivity analysis about the Gaussian assumption

To investigate the sensitivity of the proposed test to the Gaussian assumption, we perform a simulation study based on the  $\chi^2$  random fields (Bevilacqua et al., 2020; Ma, 2009) to investigate the sensitivity of the proposed test to the Gaussian assumption. A  $\chi^2(\nu)$  random field  $Y(t)$  with  $\nu$  degrees of freedom is defined by  $Y(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\nu} X_i^2(t)$ , where  $\{X_i(t), i = 1, \dots, \nu\}$  are a series of independent, stationary Gaussian processes with mean 0 and variance 1 (Lindgren et al., 2013). The R package “RandomFields” (Schlather et al., 2015) is used to simulate  $\chi^2$  random fields with isotropic Matérn covariances. Specifically, we consider the

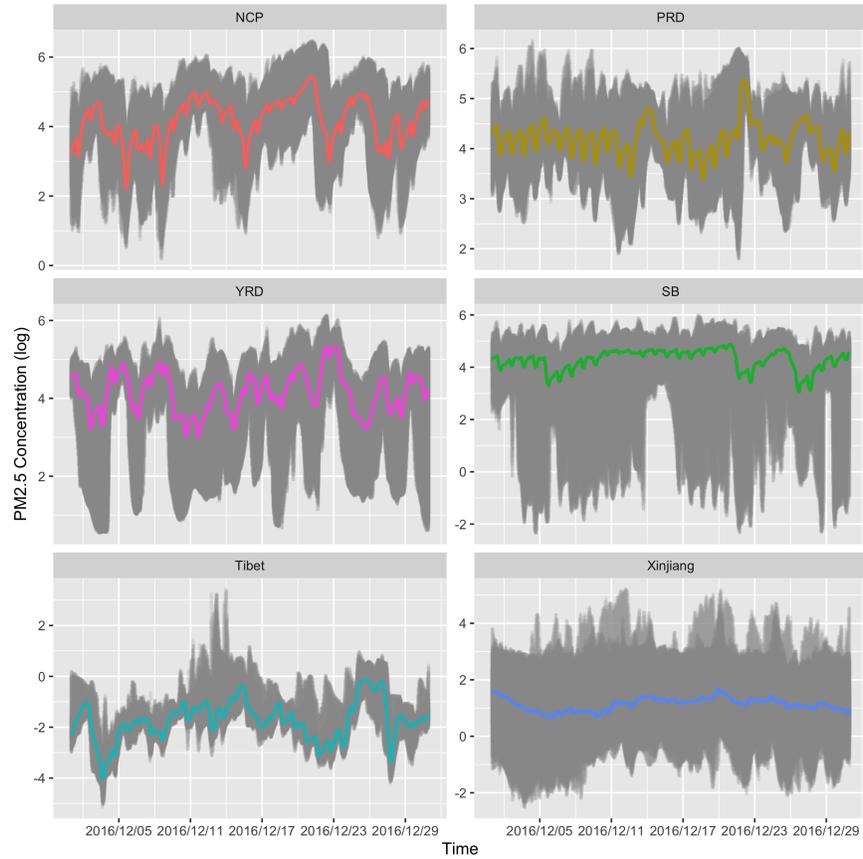


Figure S.1: Raw data (in gray) and the empirical mean functions of the six subregions in China.

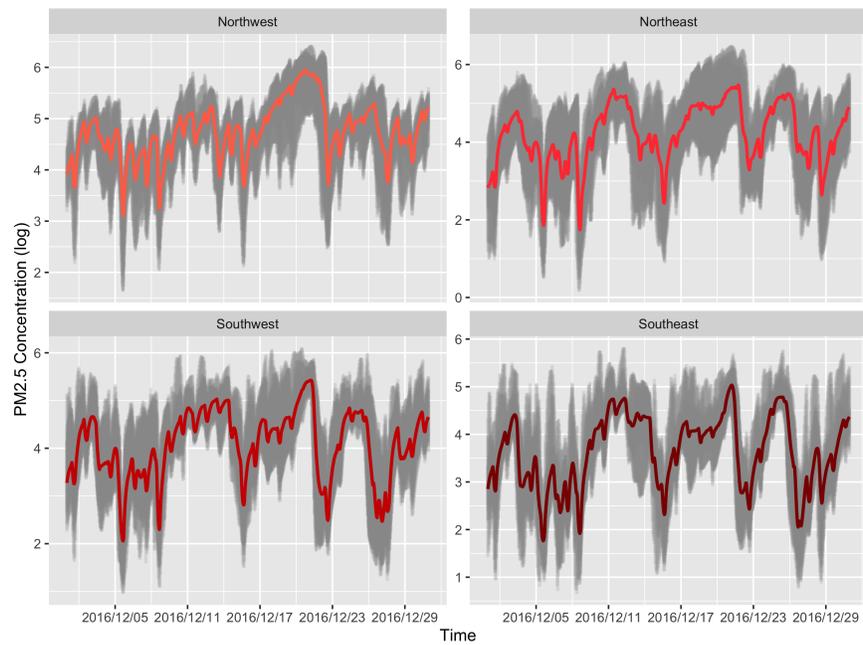


Figure S.2: Raw data (in gray) and the empirical mean functions of the four inner subregions NCP, each of which is extracted with a  $20 \times 20$  grid at northwest, northeast, southwest or southeast NCP.

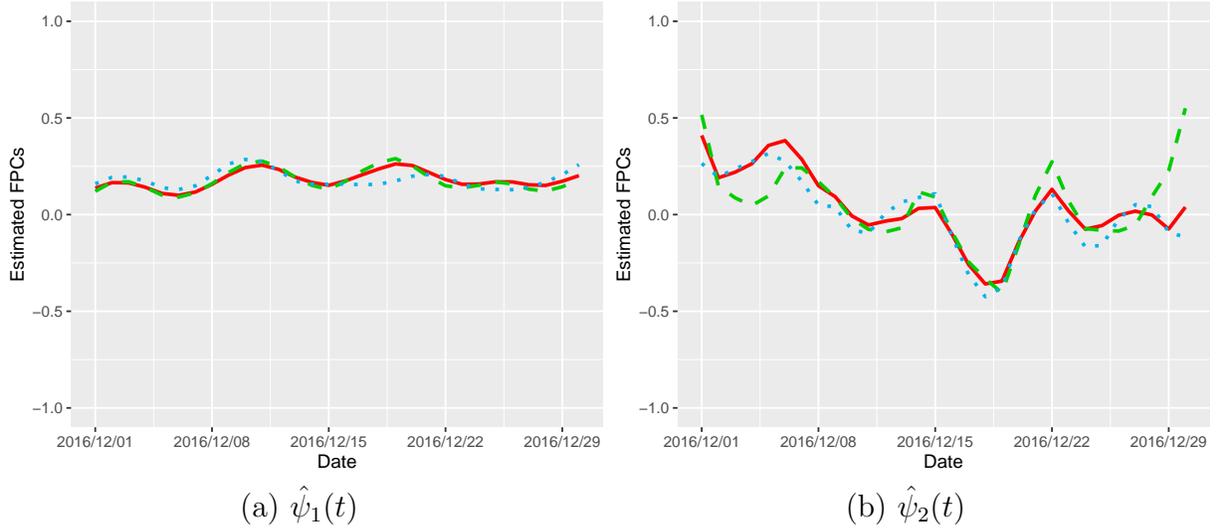


Figure S.3: Sensitivity analysis on the China's  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  data. The red lines are the estimated eigenfunctions of covariance  $\hat{C}(t_1, t_2)$  using the whole NCP region, while the green dashed lines and blue dotted lines are the corresponding estimated eigenfunctions using two subregions (northeast and southwest) of NCP.

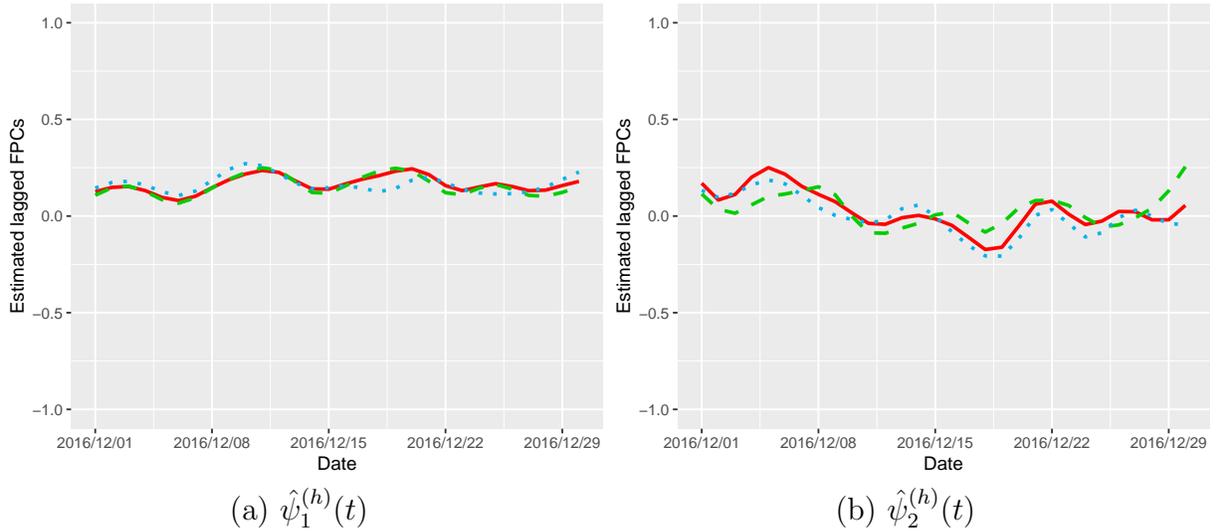


Figure S.4: Sensitivity analysis on the China's  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  data. The red lines are the estimated eigenfunctions of the lag covariance  $\hat{C}^h(t_1, t_2)$  with  $h = 1$  using the whole NCP region, while the green dashed lines and blue dotted lines are the corresponding estimated eigenfunctions using two subregions (northeast and southwest) of NCP.

following two scenarios:

1.  $\xi_3(\cdot)$  and  $\xi_4(\cdot)$  are generated marginally from two  $\chi^2(6)$  random fields with the same variance  $\omega_r$  and scale parameter  $\phi_r$  as in the Gaussian case in our paper for  $r = 3, 4$ ;
2.  $\xi_3(\cdot)$  and  $\xi_4(\cdot)$  are generated from two  $\chi^2(8)$  random fields with the same  $\omega_r$  and  $\phi_r$  as in the Gaussian case for  $r = 3, 4$ ;

Tables 1 and 2 report the empirical type I errors and power respectively for the different scenarios: (a),  $\xi_3, \xi_4 \sim \chi^2(6)$ ; (b),  $\xi_3, \xi_4 \sim \chi^2(8)$ . For the alternative hypothesis, the correlation coefficient  $\rho_{12}$  for the bivariate gaussian random fields  $\{\xi_1(\cdot), \xi_2(\cdot)\}$  is set as 0.4 for cases (a) and (b). We can see that the overall performance for the non-Gaussian cases are comparable to that for the Gaussian case. These results provide evidence for the robustness of our method to the Gaussian assumption.

FVE	Gaussian		$\xi_3, \xi_4 \sim \chi^2(6)$		$\xi_3, \xi_4 \sim \chi^2(8)$	
	Para	Nonp	Para	Nonp	Para	Nonp
80%	4.6	4.2	4.0	3.4	5.4	5.0
90%	4.8	5.4	4.2	3.6	5.6	5.4
95%	4.8	6.4	6.6	5.4	5.4	6.2

Table 1: Empirical Type I errors (%) for the weak separability tests based on the lag-1 covariance under Gaussian or non-Gaussian settings, with the asymptotic covariance estimated by parametric (Para) and non-parametric (Nonp) methods.

FVE	Gaussian		$\xi_3, \xi_4 \sim \chi^2(6)$		$\xi_3, \xi_4 \sim \chi^2(8)$	
	Para	Nonp	Para	Nonp	Para	Nonp
80%	100	100	100	100	100	100
90%	95.0	94.5	100	100	100	100
95%	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 2: Empirical power (%) for the weak separability tests based on the lag-1 covariance under Gaussian or non-Gaussian settings, with the asymptotic covariance estimated by parametric (Para) and non-parametric (Nonp) methods.

## S.2.2 Additional results of the block bootstrap

We also make attempt to approximate  $\Gamma$  using resampling methods. As only one realization of  $X(\mathbf{s}, t)$  can be obtained, standard re-sampling methods for i.i.d. data such as bootstrap (Aston et al., 2017; Constantinou et al., 2017) are no longer valid. As a possible alternative, one could use block bootstrap to approximate  $\Gamma$ . Specifically, we perform block bootstrap

following the procedures in Section 10.6 of Sherman (2011). Let  $T(\mathcal{S}_N) := T_h(\mathbb{I}_{R_N})$  be the test statistic (defined in Section 3.3 of our paper) computed from data in the overall spatial domain  $\mathcal{S}_N$ , and  $\{\mathcal{S}_{M_N}^l, l = 1, \dots, L\}$  be  $L$ -overlapping sub-blocks of  $\mathcal{S}_N$  where  $M_N$  determines the size of each sub-block. Then,  $\Gamma$  can be estimated by

$$\widehat{\Gamma}_{BB} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L |\mathcal{S}_{M_N}^l| \{T(\mathcal{S}_{M_N}^l) - \bar{T}_N\} \{T(\mathcal{S}_{M_N}^l) - \bar{T}_N\}^T,$$

where  $\bar{T}_N = \sum_{l=1}^L T(\mathcal{S}_{M_N}^l)/L$ . The corresponding  $\chi^2$  test can then be performed based on  $\widehat{\Gamma}_{BB}$ .

Table 3: Empirical type I errors (%) for the block bootstrap tests with different  $M_N$  and  $\phi_1$ .

$\phi_1$	$M_N = 10 \times 10$			$M_N = 8 \times 8$		
	FVE=80%	FVE=90%	FVE=95%	FVE=80%	FVE=90%	FVE=95%
0.2	5.8	24.0	35.6	8.4	31.2	46.0
0.1	4.4	4.4	10.8	4.0	4.0	14.4
0.05	6.4	6.4	7.4	6.8	6.8	7.8

We conduct a simulation using with the same settings as in our paper to check the performance of block bootstrap, where  $N = 40 \times 40$  and the sub-block size  $M_N$  is set as  $10 \times 10$  or  $8 \times 8$ . As it is known that the performance of block bootstrap is affected by the strength of spatial dependence, we try different values for  $\phi_1$ , the range parameter of the first FPC scores which primarily determines the spatial dependence of  $X(\mathbf{s}, t)$ . Specifically, we set  $\phi_1 = 0.2, 0.1, 0.05$ , which correspond to relatively strong, moderate, or weak spatial dependence. As shown in Table 3, the type I error of the block bootstrap test is much inflated in the relatively strong spatial dependence case, especially when FVE is larger than 90%. When  $\phi_1 = 0.1$  and  $0.05$ , the block bootstrap test could achieve relatively reasonable size, except when  $\phi_1 = 0.1$  and FVE=95%. It can also be seen that the block bootstrap test with the sub-block size  $M_N = 10 \times 10$  performs better than that with  $M_N = 8 \times 8$ . These results indicate that block bootstrap may not be a good choice for the proposed weak separability test for a general spatial functional field with strong spatial dependence.

## S.3 More Implementation Issues

### S.3.1 Implementation issues about the truncation parameter

In our paper, Conditions 4 and 4\* provide upper bounds of  $R_N$  to allow (but not require) the truncation slowly diverges. This is in fact a major theoretical challenge in most functional

data models, as the perturbation theory becomes more intricate, which is necessary in order to reflect the genuine nonparametric nature of such models.

We emphasize that  $R_N$  in our test is not a tuning parameter, i.e, we do not choose a specific  $R_N$ , but instead inspect a range of  $R_N$  in order to include enough significant FPCs. As stated in Conditions 4 and 4\*, a reasonable truncation  $R_N$  also depends on the eigenvalue decay rate  $a$ . The FVE, as a general practice in functional data, is not an automated criterion itself (saying, one still needs to specify whether to use 90% or 95%), but corresponds to different  $R_N$  while taking magnitude of eigenvalues into account to some extent.

In practice, it is generally unknown where the significant components emerge when we tend to reject the test. For example, when the non-separable parts emerge in the first two components, as in our simulation studies, a powerful test can be obtained without a very large FVE, where  $R_N$  does not necessarily diverge with  $N$ . However, the non-separable parts may exist in high-order terms; such as for the Harvard forest data in Section 5.2, the correlated FPC fields that violate the weak separability assumption do not emerge until  $R_N = 4$ . In this situation, we could avoid missing potential signal in high-order terms as  $R_N$  is allowed to diverge and also adaptive to the eigenvalue decay of the underline processes.

According to one reviewer’s suggestion, we also conduct a simulation study with different sample sizes. As we can see in Table 4, the type I errors across a large range of  $R_N$  become gradually more stable as  $N$  increase from  $30 \times 30$  to  $60 \times 60$ . On the other hand, if  $R_N$  is larger than necessary (e.g.  $R_N = 7$ ), the estimates of high-order terms becomes unstable, which may deteriorate the test performance. This also justifies the proposed theoretical result that we only need a very slow rate of  $R_N$  (e.g.  $N^{1/8}$ ) that is not very large in practice.

Table 4: Type I errors (%) for the parametric and non-parametric weak separability tests using lag-1 covariance with different sample size and different  $R_N$ .

$R_N$	$30 \times 30$		$40 \times 40$		$50 \times 50$		$60 \times 60$	
	Para	Np	Para	Np	Para	Np	Para	Np
2	4.8	4.2	4.6	4.2	3.8	4.6	3.2	5.4
3	5.6	9.4	5.0	6.4	5.4	6.4	3.8	6.4
5	9.0	11.6	6.0	7.0	5.0	6.4	4.0	4.8
7	5.4	7.2	3.8	5.8	4.0	2.4	3.6	2.2

In summary, our theoretical results provide some insight for a reasonable range of  $R_N$ , while specifying different values of FVE is helpful to include the most important FPCs.

### S.3.2 Multiple tests using different lags

According to the proposed definition, the claim of weak separability in general should be a comprehensive conclusion across different lag  $h$ . However, it is common for spatial data that observations separated by smaller lags are more correlated (Sherman, 2011), which could result in more powerful tests using smaller lags. We also attempt the multiple tests to combine the information from different lags. Specifically, we perform the Bonferroni correction through the following procedure. Assume we have  $n = 4$  hypothesis tests ( $A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4$ ) with each of the null hypothesis is that,  $H_{0,h}$ : the eigen-decomposition of lag-covariance  $C^{(h)}(t_1, t_2)$  (see equation (10) in our paper) holds for any  $\{X(\mathbf{s}, \cdot), X(\mathbf{s} + h, \cdot)\}$  for  $h = 1, 2, 3, 4$ . Then the global null hypothesis  $H_0$  is that each of  $\{H_{0,h}\}_{h=1,\dots,4}$  holds, and  $H_0$  is rejected if at least one of the  $\{H_{0,h}\}_{h=1,\dots,4}$  is rejected using the corrected significant level  $\alpha/n$ . (According to the definition of weak separability, the global null hypothesis  $H_0$  should be that the  $H_{0,h}$  holds for any  $h$ ; however, it is obviously unfeasible to perform tests for all possible  $h$ , so we just combine lag-1 to lag-4.)

We apply the Bonferroni correction in our simulation and compare its performance with the lag-1 to lag-4 covariances. The results are displayed in Table 5, where we can see that the test using the Bonferroni correction is more powerful than those using the lag-2 to lag-4 covariances, but is less powerful than that using the lag-1 covariance. Based on the new empirical evidences, we feel that the new testing procedure combining information from different lags through the Bonferroni correction may not lead to a more powerful test for weak separability, so we suggest using the lag-1 covariance for grid data.

Table 5: Rejection rates (%) for the weak separability tests based on the lag-1 to lag-4 covariances and Bonferroni correction.

$\rho_{12}$	FVE	lag-1		lag-2		lag-3		lag-4		Bonferroni	
		Para	Nonp	Para	Nonp	Para	Nonp	Para	Nonp	Para	Nonp
0	80%	4.6	4.2	6.6	4.0	8.2	5.2	6.2	4.4	5.4	2.8
	90%	4.4	4.6	6.2	4.8	8.0	5.2	6.2	4.4	5.4	4.2
	95%	4.8	6.4	6.6	7.6	7.2	5.6	5.6	4.0	5.6	5.8
0.2	80%	85.0	87.5	76.5	69.5	31.5	30.5	12.0	15.0	76.0	77.0
	90%	74.5	79.5	74.0	67.5	31.0	30.5	12.0	15.5	70.5	71.5
	95%	70.5	77.5	63.5	63.0	28.5	32.0	11.0	16.5	63.5	65.0
0.4	80%	100	100	94.0	94.0	68.0	68.0	32.5	37.0	100	100
	90%	100	100	95.0	94.5	68.5	68.5	32.5	37.5	100	100
	95%	100	100	98.5	98.0	74.0	78.0	31.0	39.0	99.5	100
0.6	80%	99.0	99.5	87.5	89.0	67.5	68.0	37.0	41.0	98.5	99
	90%	100	99.5	90.0	91.0	68.0	68.0	37.0	41.0	99.5	99.5
	95%	100	100	99.5	99.5	79.5	81.5	41.5	47.5	100	100

We also perform multiple tests on the China's PM<sub>2.5</sub> data using the Bonferroni correction with lag-1 to lag-4 covariance. The corrected significant level is  $0.05/4 = 0.0125$ . Tables 6 to 9 report the  $p$ -values of these tests across different  $R_N$  (at 80%, 90%, 95% FVE as in Section 5.1 of our paper). For NCP and YRD, the two regions for which the weak separability test using the lag-1 covariance was passed, the  $p$ -values across different lags are all larger than 0.0125, which is consistent with our previous results. In contrast, for Xinjiang and Tibet for which weak separability was rejected using the lag-1 covariance, the  $p$ -values lead to different conclusions, although the  $p$ -values for the lag-1 covariance are all less than 0.01. This is not surprising given that our simulation results reveal that the test based on the lag-1 covariance is more powerful than the others.

		lag-1	lag-2	lag-3	lag-4
$R_N = 2$	Para	0.136	0.313	0.405	0.442
	Nonp	0.287	0.398	0.432	0.439
$R_N = 3$	Para	0.150	0.123	0.111	0.135
	Nonp	0.212	0.103	0.072	0.079
$R_N = 6$	Para	0.759	0.707	0.768	0.811
	Nonp	0.289	0.100	0.535	0.554

Table 6: The  $p$ -values of multiple tests with lag-1 to lag-4 covariance for NCP region.

		lag-1	lag-2	lag-3	lag-4
$R_N = 3$	Para	0.925	0.868	0.794	0.653
	Nonp	0.620	0.374	0.219	0.128
$R_N = 6$	Para	0.863	0.996	0.999	0.995
	Nonp	0.399	0.791	0.676	0.477
$R_N = 9$	Para	0.997	1	0.999	0.995
	Nonp	0.119	0.424	0.430	0.587

Table 7: The  $p$ -values of multiple tests with lag-1 to lag-4 covariance for YRD region.

		lag-1	lag-2	lag-3	lag-4
$R_N = 2$	Para	0.002	0.087	0.394	0.612
	Nonp	0.000	0.003	0.133	0.518
$R_N = 5$	Para	0.000	0.073	0.309	0.000
	Nonp	0.000	0.011	0.052	0.000
$R_N = 8$	Para	0.000	0.000	0.423	0.000
	Nonp	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.000

Table 8: The  $p$ -values of multiple tests with lag-1 to lag-4 covariance for Xinjiang region.

		lag-1	lag-2	lag-3	lag-4
$R_N = 3$	Para	0.000	0.485	0.169	0.000
	Nonp	0.000	0.027	0.213	0.093
$R_N = 5$	Para	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Nonp	0.000	0.098	0.002	0.053
$R_N = 8$	Para	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Nonp	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001

Table 9: The  $p$ -values of multiple tests with lag-1 to lag-4 covariance for Tibet region.

## S.4 Additional Results for Simulation Study

We present the additional simulation results on the test performance with different  $\phi_1$ , the range parameter of the first FPC scores which primarily determines the spatial dependence of  $X(\mathbf{s}, t)$ . The case  $\phi_1 = 0.15, 0.2$  and  $0.25$  can be respectively regarded as the “weak”, “medium” and “strong” spatial correlation. Table 10 summarizes the empirical rejection rates from 200 simulation trials. For each  $\phi_1$ , the first row  $\rho_{12} = 0$  yields the null hypothesis, and we see that both parametric and non-parametric tests have stably reasonable size across different choices of lags. We know that for data without spatial correlation (which implies  $\phi_1 = 0$ ), the KL expansion is always correct, thus the weak separability holds even for  $\rho_{12} > 0$ . The rejection of weak separability tends to be more significant when the spatial correlation is stronger, as shown in Table 10 that the tests appear to obtain larger power for the “medium” and “strong” scenarios ( $\phi_1 = 0.2$  and  $0.25$ ). It is obvious that the lag-1 covariance outperforms the others for most scenarios except  $(\phi_1, \rho_{12}) = (0.25, 0.2)$  and  $(\phi_1, \rho_{12}) = (0.25, 0.4)$ , and the test performance dramatically deteriorates as the lag number increases, especially when  $\rho_{12} = 0.4$  or  $0.6$ .

## S.5 Technical Proofs

### S.5.1 Proof of Proposition 1 and Proposition 2

*Proof of Proposition 1.* For a strongly separable  $X(\mathbf{s}, t)$ , we see that the time covariance  $C(t_1, t_2)$  implies the eigen-decomposition in time domain  $C(t_1, t_2) = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \omega_r \psi_r(t_1) \psi_r(t_2)$  for some orthogonal basis system  $\{\psi_r(t)\}$ . To show that  $X(\mathbf{s}, t)$  is weakly separable, we only need to show that the projected scores  $\{\xi_r(\mathbf{s})\}$  on basis  $\{\psi_r(t)\}$  are mutually uncorrelated. For  $j \neq k$ , and any  $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2$ , we have

$$\mathrm{E}\{\xi_j(\mathbf{s}_1)\xi_k(\mathbf{s}_2)\} = \mathrm{E} \left[ \int \{X(\mathbf{s}_1, t) - \mu(\mathbf{s}_1, t)\} \psi_j(t) dt \right] \left[ \int \{X(\mathbf{s}_2, t) - \mu(\mathbf{s}_2, t)\} \psi_k(t) dt \right]$$

Table 10: Rejection rates (%) for the parametric (Para) and non-parametric (Np) weak separability test based on lag-1 to lag-4 covariance, with different  $\phi_1$  and  $\rho_{12}$  values. The FVE threshold value is 95%.

$\phi_1$	$\rho_{12}$	lag 1		lag 2		lag 3		lag 4	
		Para	Np	Para	Np	Para	Np	Para	Np
0.15	0	6.0	3.5	7.0	7.0	4.0	5.0	3.5	3.5
	0.2	39.5	44.0	13.0	21.5	7.0	10.0	3.5	5.0
	0.4	96.0	98.0	44.0	26.0	18.5	27.0	5.0	7.5
	0.6	100	100	73.5	82.0	26.0	35.0	5.5	10.0
0.2	0	4.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5.5	7.5	3.5	4.5
	0.2	70.5	77.5	63.5	62.5	27.5	31.5	11.0	15.0
	0.4	100	100	98.5	98.0	73.5	77.0	31.0	39.0
	0.6	100	100	99.5	99.5	79.5	81.5	41.5	47.5
0.25	0	5.0	3.5	3.5	6.5	3.0	6.0	2.5	4.5
	0.2	57.5	66.0	72.5	68.0	54.5	50.5	29.0	24.5
	0.4	98.5	98.5	100	100	88.0	87.0	54.0	56.5
	0.6	100	100	100	100	93.5	92.0	64.5	68.5

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \mathbb{E} \iint \{X(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1) - \mu(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1)\} \{X(\mathbf{s}_2, t_2) - \mu(\mathbf{s}_2, t_2)\} \psi_j(t_1) \psi_k(t_2) dt_1 dt_2 \\
&= \iint C(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1; \mathbf{s}_2, t_2) \psi_j(t_1) \psi_k(t_2) dt_1 dt_2 \\
&= \iint C(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) C(t_1, t_2) \psi_j(t_1) \psi_k(t_2) dt_1 dt_2 \\
&= C(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) \iint C(t_1, t_2) \psi_j(t_1) \psi_k(t_2) dt_1 dt_2 \\
&= C(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) \int \omega_j \psi_j(t_2) \psi_k(t_2) dt_2 = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

The conversion between integral and double integral is allowed by the Fubini theorem.  $\square$

*Proof of Proposition 2.* In the proof of Proposition 1, let  $j = k$  we have

$$\mathbb{E}\{\xi_j(\mathbf{s}_1) \xi_j(\mathbf{s}_2)\} = C(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) \int \omega_j \psi_j(t_2) \psi_j(t_2) dt_2 = \omega_j C(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2)$$

for each  $j$ . For a weakly separable process  $X(\mathbf{s}, t)$  with  $\mathbb{E}\{\xi_r(\mathbf{s}_1) \xi_r(\mathbf{s}_2)\} = \omega_r \rho(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2)$ , one could derive that  $C(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1, \mathbf{s}_2, t_2) = \rho(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \omega_r \psi_r(t_1) \psi_r(t_2) = \rho(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) C(t_1, t_2)$  using equation (6), thus  $X(\mathbf{s}, t)$  is strongly separable.  $\square$

## S.5.2 Proof of Lemmas

*Proof of Lemma 1.* This lemma comes directly from Theorem 8.1.2 of Hsing and Eubank (2015) using the tightness and convergence of finite dimension projection argument as in Theorem 7.7.6 of Hsing and Eubank (2015).  $\square$

*Proof of Lemma 2.* The proof of Lemma 2 utilizes the central limit theorem for strongly mixing processes in Hilbert space, which is a natural extension of that in real-valued spaces (see e.g. Theorem 1.7 of Bosq, 2012). To be more specific, denote  $\mathcal{U}_i = (X_i - \bar{X}) \otimes (X_i - \bar{X})$  and  $S_N = N^{-1/2} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{U}_i$ . Under Conditions 1 and 2, the series  $\sum_{i=1}^N \text{Cov}(\mathcal{U}_1, \mathcal{U}_i)$  converge absolutely to an element  $\sigma_{\mathcal{U}}^2$  in  $L^2(\mathcal{T}) \times L^2(\mathcal{T})$  using the Davydovs Inequality (Bosq, 2012) in Hilbert space with  $q = r = v/2$  and  $1/p = 1 - 2/r$ , and then  $\text{Var}(S_N)$  converge absolutely to  $\sigma_{\mathcal{U}}^2$ . To prove the asymptotic normality of  $S_N$ , we apply a blocking technique as in Bosq (2012); Guan et al. (2004) and denote  $S'_N = N^{-1/2} \sum_{i=1}^{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{V}_i$ , where  $\mathcal{V}_i = \mathcal{U}_{(i-1)(p+q)+1} + \dots + \mathcal{U}_{ip+(i-1)q}$  with  $\mathcal{N} \sim \log N$ ,  $p \sim N/(\log N) - N^{1/4}$  and  $q \sim N^{1/4}$ . Using the coupling results (Lemma 1.2 of Bosq, 2012), we can construct independent random elements  $\mathcal{W}_1, \dots, \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{N}}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{W}_i$  has the same distribution as  $\mathcal{V}_i$ , and the probability  $P(|N^{-1/2} \sum_i (\mathcal{V}_i - \mathcal{W}_i)| > \epsilon)$  can be shown to converge to 0. The asymptotic normality of  $N^{-1/2} \sum_i \mathcal{W}_i$  follows from the i.i.d case in Lemma 1, and it can also be shown that  $S'_N - S_N \xrightarrow{p} 0$ . Consequently the asymptotic normality of  $N^{1/2}(\widehat{\mathbf{C}} - \mathbf{C})$  holds, and similarly the asymptotic normality of  $N_h^{1/2}\{\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}\}$  can be obtained. Finally the proof of joint normality follows directly by applying the Cramer-Wold device (e.g. Guan et al., 2004).  $\square$

*Proof of Lemma 3.* To prove Lemma 3(a), we first let  $\widehat{\Delta} = \|\widehat{\mathbf{C}} - \mathbf{C}\|_{HS}$ ,  $\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)} = \|\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}\|_{HS}$ . Under Condition (17) and by the Lemma 3.3 of Hall and Hosseini-Nasab (2009), we have  $E(\widehat{\Delta}^C) = O(N^{-C/2})$  for any  $C > 0$ , and similarly  $E(\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^C) = O(N^{-C/2})$  by the proof of Lemma 2. Let  $\mathcal{K}_N = \{r = 1, \dots, \infty : \eta_r^{(h)} - \eta_{r+1}^{(h)} > 2\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}\}$ , that is, the index set containing  $r \in \mathcal{K}_N$  for which the distance between  $\eta_r^{(h)}$  and  $\eta_{r+1}^{(h)}$  does not fall below  $2\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}$ . As  $\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)} = O_p(N^{-1/2})$  implied by  $E\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^2 = O(N^{-1})$  and  $R_N^{a+1}N^{-1/2} \rightarrow 0$  implied by Condition 4, we have  $\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_{j+1}^{(h)} \geq R_N^{-a-1} > 2\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}$  for  $j = 1, \dots, R_N$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , that is  $R_N \in \mathcal{K}_N$  for large  $N$ . Note that  $\widehat{\eta}_j^{(h)} - \eta_j^{(h)} \leq \widehat{\Delta}_{(h)} = O_p(N^{-1/2})$  (see e.g. Hall and Horowitz, 2007), and  $\max\{\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_{j+1}^{(h)}, \eta_{j-1}^{(h)} - \eta_j^{(h)}\} \geq R_N^{-a-1} \geq CN^{-\tau/2}$  for some  $C$  and any  $\tau > 1$ , it follows that  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{N, R_N}) \rightarrow 1$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

Following (5.22) of Hall and Hosseini-Nasab (2009) and Lemma 1 of Kong et al. (2016), we have the following expansion

$$\widehat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j = \sum_{k:k \neq j} (\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-1} \psi_k \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) \psi_j \psi_k + \psi_j \int (\widehat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j) \psi_j$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{k:k \neq j} (\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-1} \psi_k \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) (\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j) \psi_k \\
& + \sum_{k:k \neq j} \frac{\hat{\eta}_j^{(h)} - \eta_j^{(h)}}{(\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})(\hat{\eta}_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})} \psi_k \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) \hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} \psi_k.
\end{aligned}$$

Denote the last three terms by  $\alpha_j \equiv \alpha_{1j} + \alpha_{2j} + \alpha_{3j}$ , and let  $\mathbf{M}_{k,j} = (\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-1} \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) \psi_j \psi_k$ ,  $\delta_j = \min_{r=1, \dots, j} (\eta_r^{(h)} - \eta_{r+1}^{(h)})$ . According to (6.55) of Hall and Hosseini-Nasab (2009), for each integer  $b > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \sum_{k:k \neq j} \mathbf{M}_{k,j}^2 \right)^b \leq C_b (j^2 N^{-1})^b \quad (\text{S.2})$$

uniformly in  $j \in \mathcal{X}_N$ , under the assumption that  $\mathbb{E}(\int \{X(\mathbf{s}) - \mu\} \psi_j)^{2b} \leq C_b [\mathbb{E}\{\int \{X(\mathbf{s}) - \mu\} \psi_j\}^2]^{2b}$  which is implied by condition (18) (see e.g. (2.18) of Hall and Hosseini-Nasab, 2009). Following (6.58) of Hall and Hosseini-Nasab (2009), we have  $\|\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j\|^2 \leq 32(\sum_{k:k \neq j} \mathbf{M}_{k,j}^2)$  on  $\mathcal{E}_{N,R_N}$ , which leads to the result in Lemma 3(b) that  $\mathbb{E}\|\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j\|^{2b} = O\{(j^2 N^{-1})^b\}$ .

To derive the bound for  $\mathbb{E}\|\alpha_j\|^2$  in Lemma 3(c), we first note that  $\|\alpha_{1j}\| = |\int (\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j) \psi_j| = \|\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j\|^2/2$ , leading to  $\mathbb{E}\|\alpha_{1j}\|^2 = O(j^4 N^{-2})$  letting  $b = 2$  in (S.2). To bound  $\alpha_{2j}$ , noting  $\|\sum_r c_r \psi_r\|^2 = \sum_r c_r^2$  due to orthonormal  $\{\psi_r\}$  and using Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\alpha_{2j}\|^2 & \leq \sum_{k:k \neq j} (\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-2} \left\{ \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) (\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j) \psi_k \right\}^2 \\
& \leq \delta_j^{-2} \widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^2 \|\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j\|^2,
\end{aligned}$$

which leads to  $\mathbb{E}\|\alpha_{2j}\|^2 \leq \delta_j^{-2} \{\mathbb{E}(\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^4) \mathbb{E}(\|\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j\|^4)\}^{1/2} = O(j^{2a+4} N^{-2})$  letting  $C = 4$  in  $\mathbb{E}(\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^C) = O(N^{-C/2})$  and  $b = 2$  in (S.2). For  $\alpha_{3j}$ , noting that  $\hat{\eta}_j^{(h)} - \eta_j^{(h)} \leq \widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}$  and  $(\hat{\eta}_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-2} \leq 2(\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-2}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\alpha_{3j}\|^2 & = (\hat{\eta}_j^{(h)} - \eta_j^{(h)})^2 \sum_{k:k \neq j} (\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-2} (\hat{\eta}_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-2} \left\{ \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) \hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} \psi_k \right\}^2 \\
& \leq 2\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^2 \left[ \sum_{k:k \neq j} (\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-4} \left\{ \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) \psi_j \psi_k \right\}^2 \right. \\
& \quad \left. + \sum_{k:k \neq j} (\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-4} \left\{ \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) (\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j) \psi_k \right\}^2 \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Let  $A_1 = \widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^2 \sum_{k:k \neq j} (\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-4} \left\{ \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) \psi_j \psi_k \right\}^2$  and  $A_2 = \widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^2 \sum_{k:k \neq j} (\eta_j^{(h)} - \eta_k^{(h)})^{-4} \left\{ \int (\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(h)} - \mathbf{C}^{(h)}) (\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j) \psi_k \right\}^2$ . It then follows that  $A_1 \leq \delta_j^{-2} \widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^2 (\sum_{k:k \neq j} \mathbf{M}_{k,j}^2)$  and

$A_2 \leq \delta_j^{-4} \widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^4 \|\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j\|^2$  (see also the proof of Lemma 1(c) of Kong et al., 2016), which leads to  $EA_1 \leq \delta_j^{-2} \{E(\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^4)E(\sum_{k:k \neq j} \mathbf{M}_{k,j}^2)\}^{1/2} = O(j^{2a+4}N^{-2})$  and  $EA_2 \leq \delta_j^{-4} \{E(\widehat{\Delta}_{(h)}^8)E(\|\hat{\psi}_j^{(h)} - \psi_j\|^4)\}^{1/2} = O(j^{4a+6}N^{-3})$  using the similar arguments as before. Then  $EA_2 = o(j^{2a+4}N^{-2})$  by Condition 4, leading to  $E\|\alpha_{3j}\|^2 = O(j^{2a+4}N^{-2})$ . Combining these results we obtain that  $E\|\alpha_j\|^2 = O(j^{2a+4}N^{-2})$  uniformly in  $j = 1, \dots, R_N$ .  $\square$

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