

Online Appendix

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In this online appendix, we prove Proposition 6 when there is no idiosyncratic noise (i.e.,  $\epsilon_i(j) = \mathbf{0}$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ ). All notation has the same meaning as in the main text. We consider two cases:

CASE 1.  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  contains at least two nonzero sub-vectors ( $\boldsymbol{\mu}_i \neq \mathbf{0}$  for at least two indices  $i$ ). For this case, it is without loss of generality to assume that  $\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{y})$  is positive definite. Otherwise, re-write  $\boldsymbol{\mu}'_i \mathbf{y}$  as  $\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}'_i \bar{\mathbf{y}}$  ( $\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_i \neq \mathbf{0}$ ), where  $\bar{\mathbf{y}}$  is a maximal linearly independent subset of  $\mathbf{y}$ , and apply the same technique by substituting  $\boldsymbol{\mu}'_i \mathbf{y}$  with  $\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}'_i \bar{\mathbf{y}}/|\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_i|$ , and  $\iota_t$  with  $\iota_t/|\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_i|$ .

All the proofs are the same as that in the proof for the case that there is idiosyncratic noise in the main text except for a separate argument to show that (A.23) in the main text cannot hold, reproduced here for convenience as:

$$\mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_i \mathbf{y}_i) - \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_i \mathbf{y}_i)^2 = 0, \quad (1)$$

with  $z_i$  replaced by  $\mathbf{y}_i$  in the absence of idiosyncratic noise. Suppose, on the contrary, that (1) holds for every  $i$ . Because  $\boldsymbol{\mu}' \mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  contains two nonzero sub-vectors, it follows from (1) that for every  $i$ ,  $\sum_j \boldsymbol{\mu}'_j \mathbf{y}_j = \boldsymbol{\mu}'_i \mathbf{y}_i$  with probability one. That means that for every  $i$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\mu}'_i \mathbf{y}_i = 0$  with probability one. But this is impossible, given  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k \neq \mathbf{0}$  for some  $k$  and the assumption of positive definiteness of  $\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{y}_k)$  in Assumption 1.

CASE 2.  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  contains only one nonzero sub-vector.

Without loss of generality, we assume  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \neq \mathbf{0}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_i = \mathbf{0}$  for  $i \neq 1$ . Because  $\mathbf{Q}_t = \boldsymbol{\pi}_t/\gamma_t$ ,  $\mathbf{Q}_t/|\mathbf{Q}_t| \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\mu}$ . Observe that

$$\frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \theta)}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_i) = \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t/|\mathbf{Q}_t|, \theta)}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t/|\mathbf{Q}_t|) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)/|\mathbf{Q}_t|^2} \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t/|\mathbf{Q}_t|, \mathbf{y}_i). \quad (2)$$

Following the same arguments in the proof of Claim 1 in the main text, we have  $\mathbf{Var}_t(u)/|\mathbf{Q}_t|^2 \rightarrow 0$ . Similar to the proof in Proposition 4, we know that  $\{\mathbf{Q}_t\}$  is bounded. For easy reference, we

repeat equations (14) and (15) from the main text below:

$$\mathbf{Q}_i = \frac{\left[ \mathbf{Var}(z_i) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}, y_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}, y_i)'}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}) + \mathbf{Var}(u)} \right]^{-1} \left[ \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, y_i) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}, \theta)}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}) + \mathbf{Var}(u)} \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}, y_i) \right]}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}_Q(\theta|i)}, \quad (3)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}, \theta) - \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, y_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(z_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}, y_i)}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}(\theta|i) [\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}) + \mathbf{Var}(u) - \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}, y_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(z_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}, y_i)]}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}(\theta|i)}}. \quad (4)$$

Because  $\mathbf{Q}_{it} \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$  for each  $i \neq 1$  (and with (2) and  $\mathbf{Var}_t(u)/|\mathbf{Q}_t|^2 \rightarrow 0$  in mind), we can pass to the limit in (3) to obtain

$$\mathbf{Var}(\mu'_1 y_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, y_i) = \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mu'_1 y_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\mu'_1 y_1, y_i) \quad (5)$$

for each  $i = 2, \dots, n$ . But (5) also holds for  $i = 1$ . To see this, multiply both sides of (3) by the positive definite matrix  $\mathbf{Var}(y_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, y_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, y_1)'}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}(u)}$ , then by  $\mathbf{Q}'_{1t}$ , and finally pass to the limit as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Q}'_{1t} \left[ \mathbf{Var}(y_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, y_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, y_1)'}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \right] \mathbf{Q}_{1t} &= \frac{\mathbf{Q}'_{1t} \left[ \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, y_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \theta)}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, y_1) \right]}{\Delta_1 \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|1)} \\ &= |\mathbf{Q}_t| \left( \frac{\frac{\mathbf{Q}'_{1t}}{|\mathbf{Q}_t|} \left[ \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, y_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t/|\mathbf{Q}_t, \theta)}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t/|\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)/|\mathbf{Q}_t|^2} \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t/|\mathbf{Q}_t, y_1) \right]}{\Delta_1 \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|1)} \right) \rightarrow 0, \end{aligned}$$

where the second equality follows from (2) and the limit follows from the boundedness of  $\{\mathbf{Q}_t\}$ ,  $\mathbf{Q}_{1t}/|\mathbf{Q}_t| \rightarrow \mu_1$ ,  $\mathbf{Q}_t/|\mathbf{Q}_t| \rightarrow \mu$  ( $\mu_i = \mathbf{0}$  for every  $i \geq 2$ ), and  $\mathbf{Var}_t(u)/|\mathbf{Q}_t|^2 \rightarrow 0$ . So

$$\left[ \mathbf{Var}(y_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, y_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, y_1)'}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \right] \mathbf{Q}_{1t} \rightarrow \mathbf{0}. \quad (6)$$

Combining (2), (3) and (6) along with  $\mathbf{Var}_t(u)/|\mathbf{Q}_t|^2 \rightarrow 0$ , we must conclude that

$$\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, y_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mu'_1 y_1, \theta)}{\mathbf{Var}(\mu'_1 y_1)} \mathbf{Cov}(\mu'_1 y_1, y_1) = \mathbf{0} \quad (7)$$

so that (5) also holds for  $i = 1$ .

Now, (7) along with  $\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1) \neq \mathbf{0}^*$  also implies that

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_1 = \frac{\mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)}{|\mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)|} \quad (8)$$

and

$$\frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1)}{\mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1)} = |\mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)|. \quad (9)$$

Multiplying both sides of (5) by  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{it}$  and adding over all  $i$ , we have

$$\mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \theta) - \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1) = 0 \quad (10)$$

for every  $t$ , while for  $i = 2, \dots, n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \theta) - \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \mathbf{y}_i) \\ & \rightarrow \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1) - \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_i) \\ & = \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1)}{\mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1)} [\mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1) - \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_i)], \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where the limit follows from the fact that  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_i = \mathbf{0}$  for every  $i \geq 2$ , and the equality again makes use of (5). By (9) and (10),  $\mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \theta) = |\mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)| \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1)$  for every  $t$ . Consequently, for every  $t$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \theta) - \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \mathbf{y}_1) \\ & = \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \theta) - |\mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)| \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1) = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where the first equality uses (8). (3) and (12) together let us conclude that for every  $t$ ,

$$\mathbf{Q}_{1t} = \frac{\mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)}{\Delta_1 \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|1)}. \quad (13)$$

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\*If  $\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1) = \mathbf{0}$ , then  $\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_i) = \mathbf{0}$  for all  $i$  by (5), which contradicts the hypothesis that  $\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_i) \neq \mathbf{0}$  for at least one  $i$ .

To see this, use (3) to observe that (13) is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{y}_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1)'}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \right]^{-1} \left[ \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \theta)}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1) \right] \\ &= \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, multiplying by  $\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{y}_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1)'}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)}$  on both sides of this equality, we see that to establish (13), it suffices to show that

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \theta)}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1) \\ &= \left[ \mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{y}_1) - \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1)'}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \right] \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1). \end{aligned}$$

The above equality is further equivalent to

$$\frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \theta)}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1) = \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_1)'}{\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \mathbf{Var}_t(u)} \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1),$$

which is indeed true due to (12).

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_t &= \frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \theta) - \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_i)}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|i) [\mathbf{Var}(\mathbf{Q}_t) + \iota_t^2 \mathbf{Var}_t(u) - \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{y}_i)]}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|i)}} \\ &= \frac{1 + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{Q}_t|} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \theta) - \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \mathbf{y}_i)}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|i) [\mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t) + \iota_t^2 \mathbf{Var}_t(u) - \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \mathbf{y}_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \mathbf{y}_i)]}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|i)}} \\ &= \frac{1 + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{Q}_t|} \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \theta) - \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \mathbf{y}_i)}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|i) [\mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t) + \iota_t^2 \mathbf{Var}_t(u) - \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \mathbf{y}_i)' \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_t, \mathbf{y}_i)]}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|i)}}, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where the first equality follows from (4) (note that here there is no idiosyncratic noise, so  $\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{y}_i$ ), the second equality uses the fact that  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_t = \mathbf{Q}_t / |\mathbf{Q}_t|$ , and the third equality follows from (12). Consequently, from (14) and the fact that  $|\mathbf{Q}_t| - |\mathbf{Q}_{1t}| \rightarrow 0$  (because  $\mathbf{Q}_{it} \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$  for every  $i \geq 2$ ), we have

$$\gamma_t - \frac{1 + \frac{\Delta_1 \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|1)}{|\mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)|} \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1)}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|i) \mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1)}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\Delta_i \mathbf{Var}_t(\theta|i)}} \rightarrow 0. \quad (15)$$

From (9) we also have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1 + \frac{\Delta_1 \text{Var}_t(\theta|1)}{|\mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)|} \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{\text{Cov}(\theta, \boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1)}{\Delta_i \text{Var}_t(\theta|i) \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\mu}'_1 \mathbf{y}_1)}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\Delta_i \text{Var}_t(\theta|i)}} &= \frac{1 + \Delta_1 \text{Var}_t(\theta|1) \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{1}{\Delta_i \text{Var}_t(\theta|i)}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\Delta_i \text{Var}_t(\theta|i)}} \\ &= \Delta_1 \text{Var}_t(\theta|1). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Combining (15) and (16), we obtain

$$\gamma_t - \Delta_1 \text{Var}_t(\theta|1) \rightarrow 0. \quad (17)$$

From (13) and (17), we can derive the two limits:

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1), \quad \boldsymbol{\pi}_i \rightarrow \mathbf{0}, \quad i = 2, \dots, n, \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma_t^2 \text{Var}(u_t) \rightarrow 0.$$

Thus,  $\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1) = \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\pi}, \mathbf{y}_1)$ . Multiplying by  $\boldsymbol{\pi}_1$  on both sides, we obtain  $\text{Cov}(\theta, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\pi})$ .

Combining this with (5) leads to  $\mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_i) = \mathbf{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\pi}, \mathbf{y}_i)$  for every  $i \geq 2$ .

In a similar way to (13), we can show that  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{1t} = \mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)$  for every  $t$ . By (12), we have  $\beta_{1t} = 0$  for every  $t$ . It follows from (5) that  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{it} \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$  for any  $i \geq 2$ . By (11) and (9), we have  $\beta_{it} |\boldsymbol{\pi}| \rightarrow |\mathbf{Var}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathbf{Cov}(\theta, \mathbf{y}_1)|$ , i.e.,  $\beta_{it} \rightarrow 1$  for any  $i \geq 2$ . Then the limit on  $\{c_t\}$  follows from the equality (8) in the main text, and the proof is now complete.  $\square$