# Verifying Snapping Mechanism - Floating Point Implementation Version

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In order to verify the differential privacy property of an implementation of the snapping mechanism [5], we follow the logic rules designed from [1] and the floating point error semantics from [7, 4, 2, 6].

# 1 Preliminary Definitions

### **Definition 1 (Laplace mechanism [3])**

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . The Laplace mechanism  $\mathcal{L}_{\epsilon} : \mathbb{R} \to \mathsf{Distr}(\mathbb{R})$  is defined by  $\mathcal{L}(t) = t + v$ , where  $v \in \mathbb{R}$  is drawn from the Laplace distribution laplee( $\frac{1}{\epsilon}$ ).

# 2 Syntax

Following are the syntax of the system. The circled operators are rounded operation in floating point computation.

```
Floating Point Expr. e_{\mathbb{F}} ::= c \mid x \mid f(x) \mid e_{\mathbb{F}} \circledast e_{\mathbb{F}} \mid \textcircled{n}(e_{\mathbb{F}}) \mid x \xleftarrow{\$} \mu

Real Expr. e_{\mathbb{R}} ::= r \mid X \mid F(X) \mid e_{\mathbb{R}} \ast e_{\mathbb{R}} \mid \ln(e_{\mathbb{R}}) \mid X \xleftarrow{\$} \mu

Arithmetic Operation \ast ::= + \mid - \mid \times \mid \div

Value v ::= r \mid c

Distribution \mu ::= laplce | unif | bernoulli

Error err ::= (e_{\mathbb{R}}, e_{\mathbb{R}})
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We use upper case for variables in real computation and lower case for variables in floating point computation. (\*) represents the operation in floating point machine.

F(X) denotes function F evaluates to value F(X) given input X in real computation, and f(x) denotes the same function F evaluates to value f(x) given the same input x in floating point computation.

### 3 Semantics

The big step semantics with relative floating point computation error are shown in Figure. 1. The semantics are  $e_{\mathbb{R}} \downarrow e_{\mathbb{F}}, err$ , which means a real world expression  $e_{\mathbb{R}}$  can be represented in floating point computation  $e_{\mathbb{F}}$  with error bound err. The  $\eta$  is the machine epsilon.

$$\frac{c = \mathtt{fl}(r)}{r \Downarrow c, \left(\frac{r}{(1+\eta)}, r(1+\eta)\right)} \xrightarrow{\mathtt{CONST}} \frac{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1} \Downarrow e_{\mathbb{F}}^{1}, (e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1}, \bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1}}) \qquad e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2} \Downarrow e_{\mathbb{F}}^{2}, (e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}, \bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}})}{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1} \circledast e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2} \Downarrow \mathtt{fl}(e_{\mathbb{F}}^{1} \circledast e_{\mathbb{F}}^{2}), \left(\left(\frac{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1} \circledast e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}}{(1+\eta)}, (\bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1}} \circledast \bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}})(1+\eta)\right)} \xrightarrow{\mathtt{OP}} \frac{e_{\mathbb{R}} \Downarrow e_{\mathbb{F}}, (e_{\mathbb{R}}, \bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}}) \qquad e_{\mathbb{R}} \wr e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2})}{\mathtt{ln}(e_{\mathbb{R}}) \Downarrow \textcircled{m}(e_{\mathbb{F}}), \left(\left(\frac{\textcircled{m}(e_{\mathbb{R}})}{(1+\eta)}, (\ln(\bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}}))(1+\eta)\right)} \xrightarrow{\mathtt{LN}} \frac{e_{\mathbb{R}} \Downarrow e_{\mathbb{F}}, (e_{\mathbb{R}}, \bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}}) \qquad e_{\mathbb{R}} \wr 1}{\mathtt{ln}(e_{\mathbb{R}}) \Downarrow \textcircled{m}(e_{\mathbb{F}}), \left((\ln(e_{\mathbb{R}}))(1+\eta), \frac{\textcircled{m}(\bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}})}{(1+\eta)}\right)} \xrightarrow{\mathtt{LN}} \mathtt{DP}$$

Figure 1: Semantics with Relative Floating Point Error

#### **Theorem 1 (Soundness Theorem)**

Given  $e_{\mathbb{R}}$  and  $e_{\mathbb{F}}$  where  $e_{\mathbb{R}} \downarrow e_{\mathbb{F}}, err$ , when evaluating the  $e_{\mathbb{F}}$  in floating point computation and get the value c, we have  $c \in err$ .

# 4 Snapping Mechanism

**Definition 2** (Snap<sub> $\mathbb{R}$ </sub>(a):  $A \to \mathsf{Distr}(\mathbb{R})$ )

Given privacy parameter  $\epsilon$ , the ideal Snapping mechanism  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}(a)$  is defined as:

$$U \xleftarrow{\$} \mu; S \xleftarrow{\$} \{-1,1\}; Y = \ln(U) \div \epsilon; Z = S \times Y; X = F(a); W = X + Z; W' = \lfloor W \rceil_{\Lambda}; R = \mathsf{clamp}_B(W')$$

where f is the query function over input  $a \in A$ ,  $\epsilon$  is the privacy budget, B is the clamping bound and  $\Lambda$  is the rounding argument satisfying  $\lambda = 2^k$  where  $2^k$  is the smallest power of 2 greater or equal to the  $\frac{1}{\epsilon}$ .

Let  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}'(a, U, S)$  be the same as  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a)$  given U, S without rounding and clamping steps.

#### **Definition 3** (Snap<sub> $\mathbb{F}$ </sub>(a): $A \to \mathsf{Distr}(\mathbb{R})$ )

Given privacy parameter  $\epsilon$ , the floating point implemented Snapping mechanism  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a)$  is defined as (where all parameters are defined the same as above):

$$u_{\mathbb{F}} \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \mu; s_{\mathbb{F}} \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \{-1,1\}; y = \textcircled{n}(u) \oplus \varepsilon; z = s \otimes y; x = f(a); w = x \oplus z; w' = \lfloor w \rceil_{\Lambda}; r = \mathsf{clamp}_B(w')$$

Let  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a, u, s)$  be the same as  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a)$  without rounding and clamping precesses given u, s.

### 5 Main Theorem

#### Theorem 2 (The Snap mechanism is $\epsilon$ -differentially private)

Consider Snap(a) defined as before, if Snap(a) = x given database a and privacy parameter  $\epsilon$ , then its actual privacy loss is bounded by  $\epsilon + 12x\epsilon\eta + 2\eta$ 

*Proof.* Given  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a) = x$  and parameter  $\varepsilon$ , we consider a' be the adjacent database of a satisfying  $|f(a) - f(a')| \le 1$ . Without loss of generalization, we assume f(a) + 1 = f(a') ( $\diamond$ ). The proof is developed by cases of the output of  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a)$  mechanism.

Consider the  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}(a)$  outputting the same result x, let (L,R) be the range where  $\forall u \in (L,R)$  and some s,  $\mathsf{Snap}'_{\mathbb{R}}(a,u,s) = x$ , we have  $\mathsf{Pr}[\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}(a)] = R - L$ . Given the  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}$  is  $\varepsilon$ -dp, we have:

$$e^{-\epsilon} \le \frac{\Pr[\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}(a)]}{\Pr[\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}(a)]} = \frac{R-L}{R'-L'} \le e^{\epsilon}$$

Let (l, r) be the range where  $\forall u \in (l, r)$  and some s,  $\mathsf{Snap}'_{\mathbb{F}}(a, u, s) = x$ , we estimated the |r - l| in terms of floating point relative error and |R - L| through our semantics in order to verify the privacy loss of  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}$ .

### case x = -B

Let *b* be the largest number rounded by  $\Lambda$  that is smaller than *B*. We know s = 1, L = l = 0 and R = -b, so we only need to estimate the right side range *r* in this case. The derivation of this case given  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a,R,1) = \mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a',R,1) = x$  is shown as following:

$$R \Downarrow r, (\underline{R}, \overline{R})$$

$$\operatorname{In}(R) \Downarrow \textcircled{n}(r), (\operatorname{In}(\underline{R})(1+\eta), \frac{\operatorname{In}(\bar{R})}{(1+\eta)})$$

$$\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{In}(R) \Downarrow \frac{1}{\epsilon} \otimes \textcircled{n}(r), ((\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{In}(\underline{R}))(1+\eta)^2, \frac{\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{In}(\bar{R})}{(1+\eta)^2})$$

$$\operatorname{ID}$$

$$f(a) + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{In}(R) \Downarrow f(a) \oplus \frac{1}{\epsilon} \otimes \textcircled{n}(r), \left(\left(f(a) + (\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{In}(\underline{R}))(1+\eta)^2\right)(1+\eta), \frac{(f(a) + \frac{\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{In}(\bar{R})}{(1+\eta)^2})}{(1+\eta)}\right)$$

$$\operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}'(a, R, 1) \Downarrow \operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a, r, 1), \left(\left(f(a) + (\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{In}(\underline{R}))(1+\eta)^2\right)(1+\eta), \frac{(f(a) + \frac{\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{In}(\bar{R})}{(1+\eta)^2})}{(1+\eta)}\right)$$

In the same way, we have the derivation for  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a',r,1)$ :

Given  $\operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a) = \operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a') = x = -b$ , we have following values for  $\underline{R}, \overline{R}, \underline{R}'$  and  $\overline{R}'$ :

$$\begin{split} & \underline{R} = e^{\epsilon \left( (x(1+\eta) - f(a))(1+\eta)^2 \right)}, \bar{R} = e^{\epsilon \frac{\left( \frac{x}{1+\eta} - f(a) \right)}{(1+\eta)^2}} \\ & \underline{R}' = e^{\epsilon \left( (x(1+\eta) - f(a'))(1+\eta)^2 \right)}, \bar{R}' = e^{\epsilon \left( \frac{(\frac{x}{1+\eta} - f(a'))}{(1+\eta)^2} \right)} \end{split}$$

The privacy loss of  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a)$  in this case is bounded by:

$$\frac{\frac{1}{2}(\bar{R}-0)}{\frac{1}{2}(\underline{R}'-0)} = e^{\epsilon((-b-\frac{\Lambda}{2})(1+\eta-\frac{1}{1+\eta})+f(a)((1+\eta)^2-\frac{1}{(1+\eta)^2})+(1+\eta)^2)} \leq e^{\epsilon(10.1\eta B+1+2.1\eta)}$$

case  $x \in (-B, \lfloor f(a) \rfloor_{\Lambda})$ 

Let  $y_1 = x - (\frac{\Lambda}{2})$ ,  $y_2 = x + (\frac{\Lambda}{2})$ , we know S = s = 1,  $L = e^{\epsilon(y_1 - f(a))}$  and  $R = e^{\epsilon(y_2 - f(a))}$  in this case.

The derivations of estimating l and r are shown as following:

$$L \Downarrow l, (\underline{L}, \overline{L})$$

$$\ln(L) \Downarrow \textcircled{n}(l), (\ln(\underline{L})(1+\eta), \frac{\ln(\overline{L})}{(1+\eta)})$$

$$\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \ln(L) \Downarrow \frac{1}{\epsilon} \otimes \textcircled{n}(l), ((\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \ln(\underline{L}))(1+\eta)^2, \frac{\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \ln(\overline{L})}{(1+\eta)^2})$$

$$\frac{f(a) + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \ln(L) \Downarrow f(a) \oplus \frac{1}{\epsilon} \otimes \textcircled{n}(l), (\frac{f(a) + (\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \ln(\underline{L}))(1+\eta)^2}{1+\eta}, (f(a) + \frac{\frac{1}{\epsilon} \times \ln(\overline{L})}{(1+\eta)^2})(1+\eta))}{\text{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}'(a, L, 1) \Downarrow \text{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a, l, 1), (err_1, err_2)}$$

From soundness theorem, we have  $err_1 \le y_2 \le err_2$ .

Taking the lower bound (i.e.  $err_1 = y_1$ ), we get:  $\underline{L} = e^{(y_1/(1+\eta)-f(a))(1+\eta)^2\epsilon}$ . Taking the upper bound (i.e.  $err_2 = y_1$ ), we get:  $\overline{L} = e^{(y_1(1+\eta)-f(a))\epsilon/(1+\eta)^2}$ .

$$\frac{ }{ \frac{ \mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}'(a,R,1) \Downarrow \mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a,r,1), (\frac{f(a)+(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\times \ln(\underline{R}))(1+\eta)^2}{1+\eta}, (f(a)+\frac{\frac{1}{\epsilon}\times \ln(\bar{R})}{(1+\eta)^2})(1+\eta)) }{ \frac{\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}'(a,R,1) \Downarrow \mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a,r,1), (err_1,err_2) }{ } }$$

From soundness theorem, we have  $err_1 \le y_2 \le err_2$ .

Taking the lower bound (i.e.  $err_1 = y_2$ ), we have:  $\underline{R} = e^{(y_2/(1+\eta)-f(a))(1+\eta)^2\epsilon}$ . Taking the upper bound (i.e.  $err_2 = y_1$ ), we have:  $\bar{R} = e^{(y_2/(1+\eta)-f(a))\epsilon/(1+\eta)^2}$ .

In the same way, we have the derivation for  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a',l,1)$  and  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a',r,1)$ :

$$\frac{\cdots}{\operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}'(a',L',1) \Downarrow \operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a',l',1), (\frac{f(a')+(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\times \ln(\underline{L'}))(1+\eta)^2}{1+\eta}, (f(a')+\frac{\frac{1}{\epsilon}\times \ln(\bar{L'})}{(1+\eta)^2})(1+\eta))}$$

From soundness theorem, we have  $err_1 \le y_2 \le err_2$ .

Taking the lower bound (i.e.  $err_1 = y_1$ ), we get:  $\underline{L} = e^{(y_1/(1+\eta)-f(a'))(1+\eta)^2\epsilon}$ . Taking the upper bound (i.e.  $err_2 = y_1$ ), we get:  $\bar{L} = e^{(y_1(1+\eta)-f(a'))\epsilon/(1+\eta)^2}$ .

$$\frac{\cdots}{\operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}'(a',R',1) \Downarrow \operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a',r',1), (\frac{f(a')+(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\times\ln(\underline{R}'))(1+\eta)^2}{1+\eta}, (f(a')+\frac{\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\times\ln(\bar{R}')}{(1+\eta)^2})(1+\eta))}$$

From soundness theorem, we have  $err_1 \le y_2 \le err_2$ .

Taking the lower bound (i.e.  $err_1 = y_2$ ), we have:  $\underline{R} = e^{(y_2/(1+\eta)-f(a'))(1+\eta)^2\epsilon}$ . Taking the upper bound (i.e.  $err_2 = y_1$ ), we have:  $\bar{R} = e^{(y_2(1+\eta)-f(a'))\epsilon/(1+\eta)^2}$ .

The privacy loss is bounded by:

$$\frac{|\bar{R} - \underline{L}|}{|R' - \bar{L}'|}$$

Since the following bound can be proved by using  $1 - 2\eta < (1 + \eta)^2 < 1 + 2.1\eta$ ,  $y_1 > -B$ ,  $y_2 > -B$  and simple approximation:

$$\bar{R} - L < (R - L)e^{(5B\eta\epsilon)}, R' - \bar{L'} > (R' - L')e^{-7B\eta\epsilon}$$

We also have the  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}(a)$  is  $\epsilon$ -dp:

$$\frac{|R-L|}{|R'-L'|} = e^{\epsilon}$$

So we can get:

$$\frac{|\bar{R} - \underline{L}|}{|R' - \bar{L'}|} < \frac{|R - L|}{|R' - L'|} e^{(12B\eta\epsilon)} = e^{(1+12B\eta)\epsilon}$$

case  $x = \lfloor f(a) \rceil_{\Lambda}$ 

[[ where  $r_1, \bar{r_1}, r_2, \bar{r_2}, r_1', \bar{r_1'}, r_2' and \bar{r_2'}$  have following values: Given that the probability is equivalent to the length of the range, we have the ratio between u and u' is bounded by:

$$\frac{u}{u'} \le \frac{1 - \frac{1}{2}(r_2 + r_1)}{\frac{1}{2}(r_2' - \bar{r_1'})} \le \epsilon + 12x\epsilon\eta + 2\eta$$

By the AxUnif rule, we have the actual privacy loss is bounded by the same value. ]]

case  $x \in (\lfloor f(a) \rceil_{\Lambda}, \lfloor f(a') \rceil_{\Lambda})$ 

Following the semantics in Figure 1, we have following evaluation results:

$$u \in \left( (\bar{r_1}, \bar{r_1}), (\bar{r_2}, \bar{r_2}) \right] \wedge (s = 1) \sim u' \in \left[ (\bar{r_1'}, \bar{r_1'}), (\bar{r_2'}, \bar{r_2'}) \right) \wedge (s = -1),$$

[[ where  $r_1, \bar{r_1}, r_2, \bar{r_2}, r_1', r_1', r_2'$  and  $r_2'$  have following values: Given that the probability is equivalent to the length of the range, we have the ratio between u and u' is bounded by:

$$\frac{u}{u'} \le \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\bar{r_2} - r_1)}{\frac{1}{2}(r_2' - \bar{r_1'})} \le \epsilon + 12x\epsilon\eta + 2\eta$$

By the AxUnif rule, we have the actual privacy loss is bounded by the same value. ]]

case 
$$x = \lfloor f(a') \rfloor_{\Lambda}$$

Following the semantics in Figure 1, we have following evaluation results:

$$u \in \left( (\bar{r_1}, \bar{r_1}), (\bar{r_2}, \bar{r_2}) \right] \wedge (s = 1) \sim u' \in \left[ (\bar{r_1'}, \bar{r_1'}), 1 \right] \wedge (s = -1) \vee \left[ (\bar{r_2'}, \bar{r_2'}), 1 \right] \wedge (s = 1),$$

[[ where  $r_1, \bar{r_1}, r_2, \bar{r_2}, r_1', \bar{r_1'}, r_2'$  and  $\bar{r_2'}$  have following values: Given that the probability is equivalent to the length of the range, we have the ratio between u and u' is bounded by:

$$\frac{u}{u'} \le \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\bar{r_2} - r_1)}{1 - \frac{1}{2}(\bar{r_2}' + \bar{r_1}')} \le \epsilon + 12x\epsilon\eta + 2\eta$$

By the AxUnif rule, we have the actual privacy loss is bounded by the same value. ]]

case 
$$x \in (\lfloor f(a') \rceil_{\Lambda}, B)$$

Following the semantics in Figure 1, we have following evaluation results:

$$u \in \left( (r_1, \bar{r_1}), (r_2, \bar{r_2}) \right] \wedge (s = 1) \sim u' \in \left( (r_1', \bar{r_1'}), (r_2', \bar{r_2'}) \right] \wedge (s = 1),$$

[[ where  $r_1, \bar{r_1}, r_2, \bar{r_2}, r_1', r_1', r_2'$  and  $r_2'$  have following values: Given that the probability is equivalent to the length of the range, we have the ratio between u and u' is bounded by:

$$\frac{u}{u'} \le \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\bar{r_2} - r_1)}{\frac{1}{2}(r_2' - \bar{r_1'})} \le \epsilon + 12x\epsilon\eta + 2\eta$$

By the AxUnif rule, we have the actual privacy loss is bounded by the same value. ]]

#### case x = B

We know s = -1, L = l = 0 and R = b, so we only need to estimate the right side range r in this case. The derivation of this case given  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a,r,-1) = \mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a',r,-1) = x$  is shown as following:

In the same way, we have the derivation for  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a',r,1)$ :

$$\frac{\cdots}{\operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}'(a',R,1) \Downarrow \operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a',r,1), (\frac{f(a')+(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\times \ln(\underline{R}'))(1+\eta)^2}{1+\eta}, (f(a')+\frac{\frac{1}{\epsilon}\times \ln(\bar{R}')}{(1+\eta)^2})(1+\eta))}$$

Given  $\operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a) = \operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a') = x = b$ , we have following values for  $\underline{R}, \overline{R}, \underline{R'}$  and  $\overline{R'}$ :

$$\begin{split} & \underline{R} = e^{\epsilon(\frac{-b-\frac{\Lambda}{2}}{1+\eta} - f(a))(1+\eta)^2)}, \bar{R} = e^{\epsilon\frac{(-b-\frac{\Lambda}{2})(1+\eta) - f(a)}{(1+\eta)^2}} \\ & R' = e^{\epsilon(\frac{-b-\frac{\Lambda}{2}}{1+\eta} - f(a'))(1+\eta)^2)}, \bar{R'} = e^{\epsilon\frac{(-b-\frac{\Lambda}{2})(1+\eta) - f(a')}{(1+\eta)^2}} \end{split}$$

The privacy loss of  $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a)$  in this case is bounded by:

$$\frac{\frac{1}{2}(\bar{R}-0)}{\frac{1}{2}(\underline{R}'-0)} = e^{\epsilon((-b-\frac{\Lambda}{2})(1+\eta-\frac{1}{1+\eta})+f(a)((1+\eta)^2-\frac{1}{(1+\eta)^2})+(1+\eta)^2)} \geq e^{-\epsilon(1+\eta)^22B} \geq e^{-(\epsilon+12B\epsilon\eta)}$$

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