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 $\mathsf{laplace}(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$.

2 Syntax

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

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Floating Point Expr. e_{\mathbb{F}} ::= c \mid x_{\mathbb{F}} \mid f(x_{\mathbb{F}}) \mid e_{\mathbb{F}} \circledast e_{\mathbb{F}} \mid \mathop{\hbox{$\square$}}\nolimits (e_{\mathbb{F}}) \mid x_{\mathbb{F}} \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \mu

Real Expr. e_{\mathbb{R}} ::= r \mid x_{\mathbb{R}} \mid F(x_{\mathbb{R}}) \mid e_{\mathbb{R}} * e_{\mathbb{R}} \mid \ln(e_{\mathbb{R}}) \mid x_{\mathbb{R}} \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \mu

Arithmetic Operation * ::= + \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.

 $F(x_{\mathbb{R}})$ denotes function F evaluates to value $F(x_{\mathbb{R}})$ given input $x_{\mathbb{R}}$ in real computation, and $f(x_{\mathbb{F}})$ denotes the same function F evaluates to value $f(x_{\mathbb{F}})$ given the same input $x_{\mathbb{F}}$ 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 η is the machine epsilon.

$$\frac{c = \mathtt{fl}(r)}{r \Downarrow c, \left(\frac{r}{(1+\eta)}, r(1+\eta)\right)} \overset{CONST}{=} \frac{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1} \Downarrow e_{\mathbb{F}}^{1}, (e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1}, \bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1}}) \qquad e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2} \Downarrow e_{\mathbb{F}}^{2}, (e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}, \bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}})}{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1} * e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2} \Downarrow \mathtt{fl}(e_{\mathbb{F}}^{1} \circledast e_{\mathbb{F}}^{2}), \left((\frac{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1} * e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}}{(1+\eta)}, (\bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1}} * \bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}})(1+\eta)\right)} \overset{OP}{=} \frac{e_{\mathbb{R}} \Downarrow e_{\mathbb{F}}, (e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1}, \bar{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}})}{e_{\mathbb{R}}^{1} * e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2} + e_{\mathbb{R}}^{2}} \overset{OP}{=} \overset{O$$

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_{\mathbb{R}}(a): $A \to \mathsf{Distr}(\mathbb{R})$)

Given privacy parameter ϵ , 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 $a \in A$, ϵ is the privacy budget, B is the clamping bound and Λ is the rounding argument satisfying $\lambda = 2^k$ where 2^k is the smallest power of 2 greater or equal to the $\frac{1}{2}$.

Let $\mathsf{Snap}'_{\mathbb{R}}(a, U, S)$ be the same as $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a)$ given $U \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \mu; S \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \{-1, 1\}$ without rounding and clamping steps.

Definition 3 (Snap_{\mathbb{F}}(a): $A \to \text{Distr}(\mathbb{R})$)

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

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

Let $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a, u, s)$ be the same as $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a)$ without rounding and clamping precesses given $u \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \mu$; $s \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{-1, 1\}$.

5 Main Theorem

Theorem 2 (The Snap mechanism is ϵ -differentially private)

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

Proof. Given $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a) = x$ and parameter ϵ , 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 ε -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, $\operatorname{Snap}'_{\mathbb{F}}(a, u, s) = x$, 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 $\operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}$.

case x = -B

Let b be the largest number rounded by Λ 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:

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

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

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

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

Given $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a) = \mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}(a') = x = -b$, 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:

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

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

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:

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

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

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

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

$$\operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{R}}'(a, L, 1) \Downarrow \operatorname{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a, l, 1), (err_1, err_2)$$

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: $\underline{L} = e^{(y_1(1+\eta)-f(a))\epsilon/(1+\eta)^2}$.

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

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 $\mathsf{Snap}_{\mathbb{F}}'(a', r, 1)$:

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

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: $\overline{L} = e^{(y_1(1+\eta)-f(a'))\epsilon/(1+\eta)^2}$.

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

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:

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

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 ϵ -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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