



# The Optimal Mechanism in Differential Privacy

Quan Geng

Advisor: Prof. Pramod Viswanath

# Outline

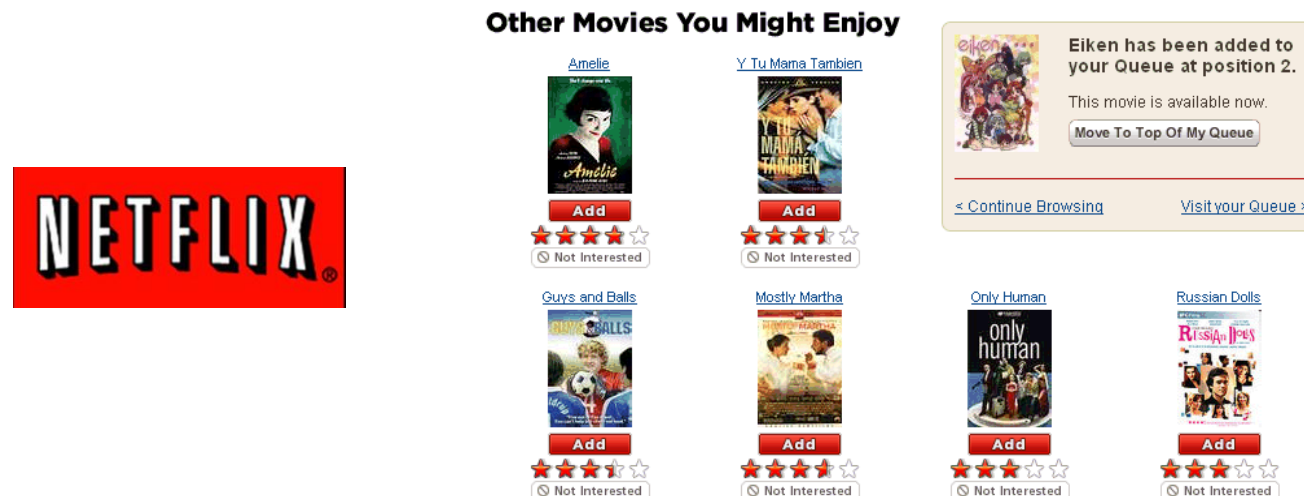
- Background on Differential Privacy
- $\epsilon$ -Differential Privacy: Single Dimensional Setting
- $\epsilon$ -Differential Privacy: Multiple Dimensional Setting
- $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -Differential Privacy
- Conclusion

# Motivation

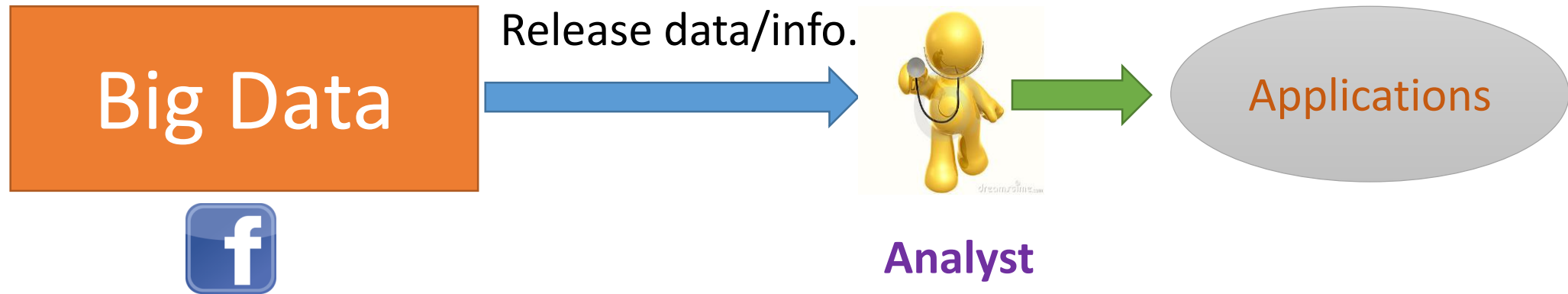
- Vast amounts of personal information are collected



- Data analysis produces a lot of useful applications



# Motivation



- How to **release** the data while protecting individual's **privacy**?

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- How to protect **PRIVACY** resilient to attacks with arbitrary side information?

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  - **Answer: randomized releasing mechanism**

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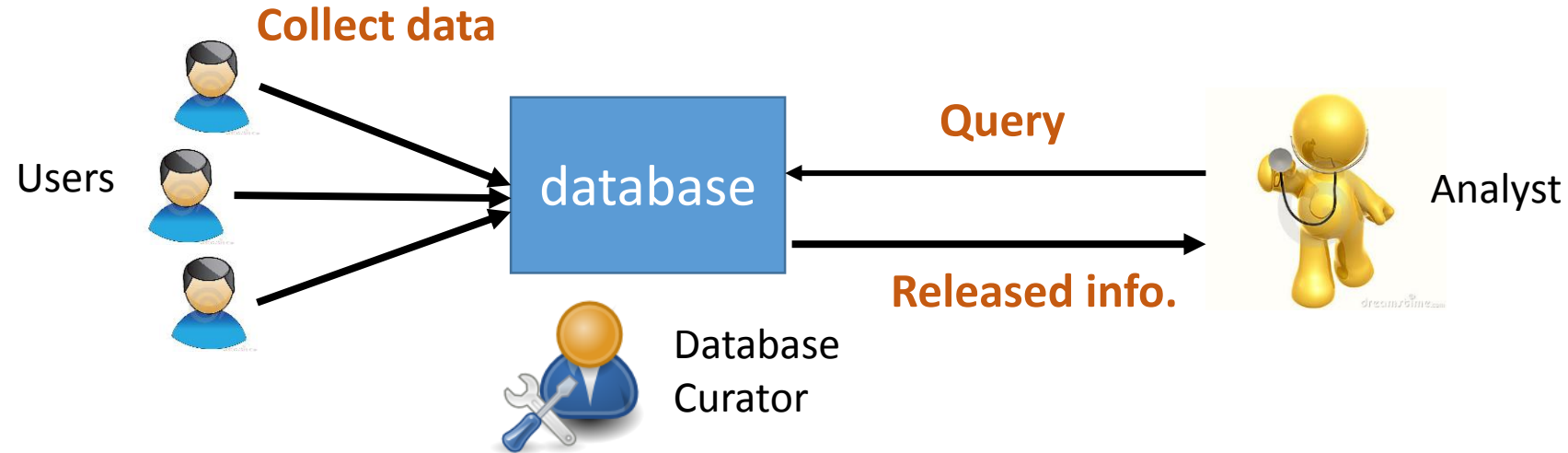
- How to protect **PRIVACY** resilient to attacks with arbitrary side information?
  - **Answer: randomized releasing mechanism**
- How much randomness is needed?
  - completely random (**no utility**)
  - deterministic (**no privacy**)

# Motivation

- How to protect **PRIVACY** resilient to attacks with arbitrary side information?
  - **Answer: randomized releasing mechanism**
- How much randomness is needed?
  - completely random (**no utility**)
  - deterministic (**no privacy**)
- **Differential Privacy** [Dwork et. al. 06]: one way to quantify the level of **randomness** and **privacy**

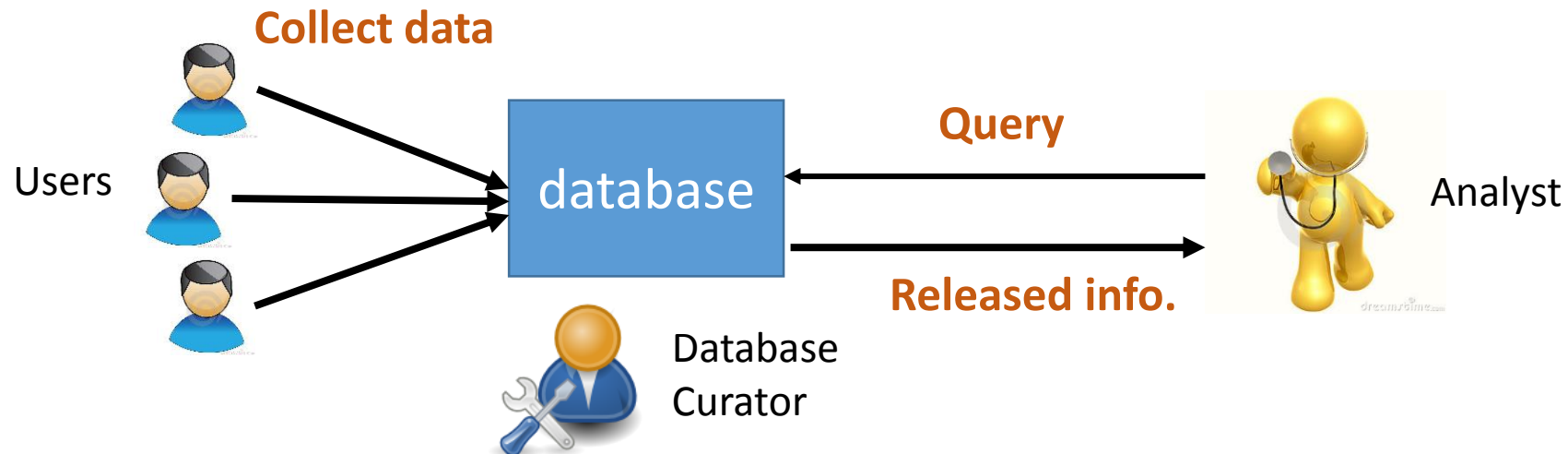


# Background on Differential Privacy



- **Database Curator:** How to **answer** a query, providing **useful** data information to the analyst, while still protecting the **privacy** of each user.

# Background on Differential Privacy



dataset:  $D$

Age
A: 20
B: 35
C: 43
D: 30

query function:  $q(D)$

$q$ : How many people are older than 32?

$q(D) = 2$

randomized released mechanism:  $K(D)$

$K(D) = 1$	w.p. $1/8$
$K(D) = 2$	w.p. $1/2$
$K(D) = 3$	w.p. $1/4$
$K(D) = 4$	w.p. $1/8$

# Background on Differential Privacy

- **Two neighboring datasets:** differ only at one element

Age
A: 20
B: 35
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$D_1$

Age
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D: 30

$D_2$

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$D_2$

$$K(D_1) \approx K(D_2)$$

**Differential Privacy:** **presence** or **absence** of any individual record in the dataset should not affect the released information significantly.

# Background on Differential Privacy

- A randomized mechanism  $K$  gives  **$\epsilon$ -differential privacy**, if for any two neighboring datasets  $D_1, D_2$ , and all  $S \subset \text{Range}(K)$ ,

$$\Pr(K(D_1) \in S) \leq e^\epsilon \Pr(K(D_2) \in S)$$

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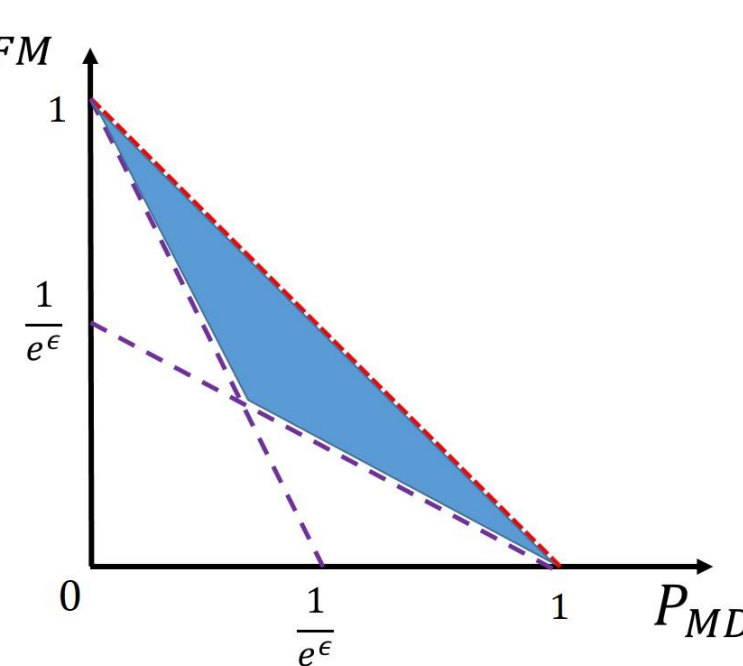
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Make hypothesis testing hard:

$$e^\epsilon P_{FA} + P_{MD} \geq 1$$

$$P_{FA} + e^\epsilon P_{MD} \geq 1$$



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- $\epsilon$  quantifies the level of privacy
  - $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , high privacy
  - $\epsilon \rightarrow +\infty$ , low privacy
  - a **social** question to choose  $\epsilon$  (can be 0.01, 0.1, 1, 10 ...)

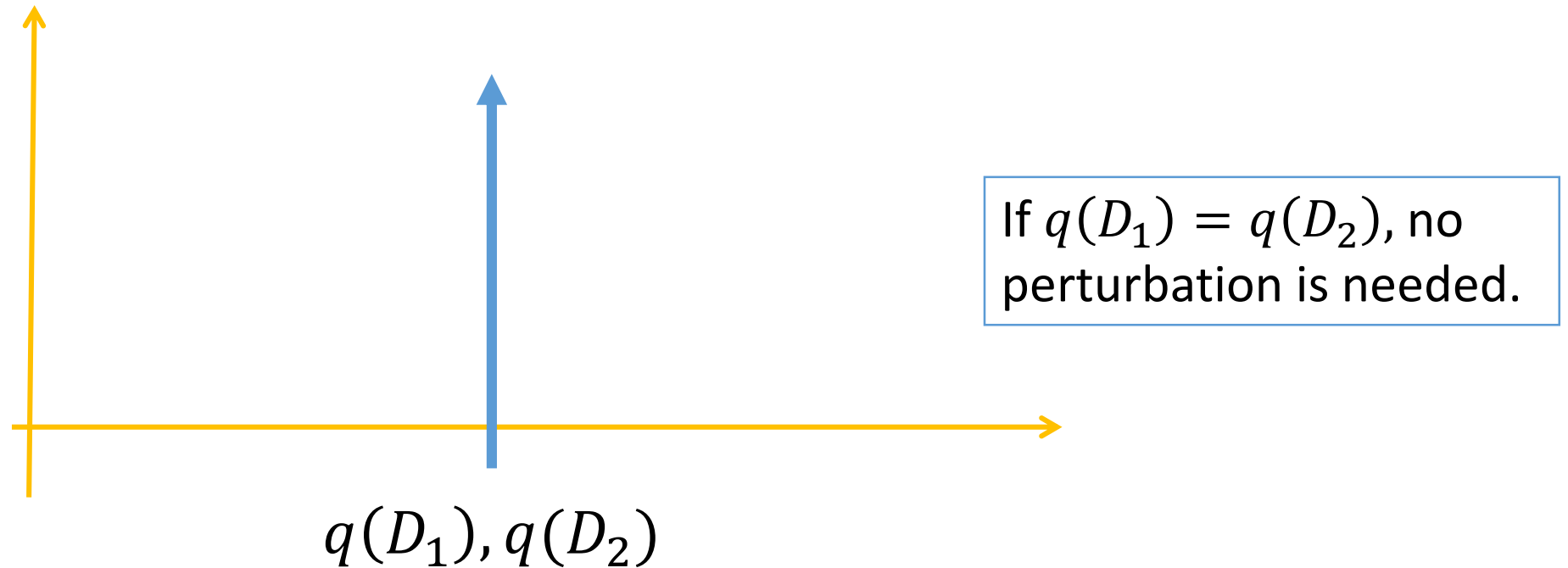
# Background on Differential Privacy

- **Q:** How much perturbation needed to achieve  $\epsilon$ -DP?
- **A:** depends on how different  $q(D_1), q(D_2)$  are



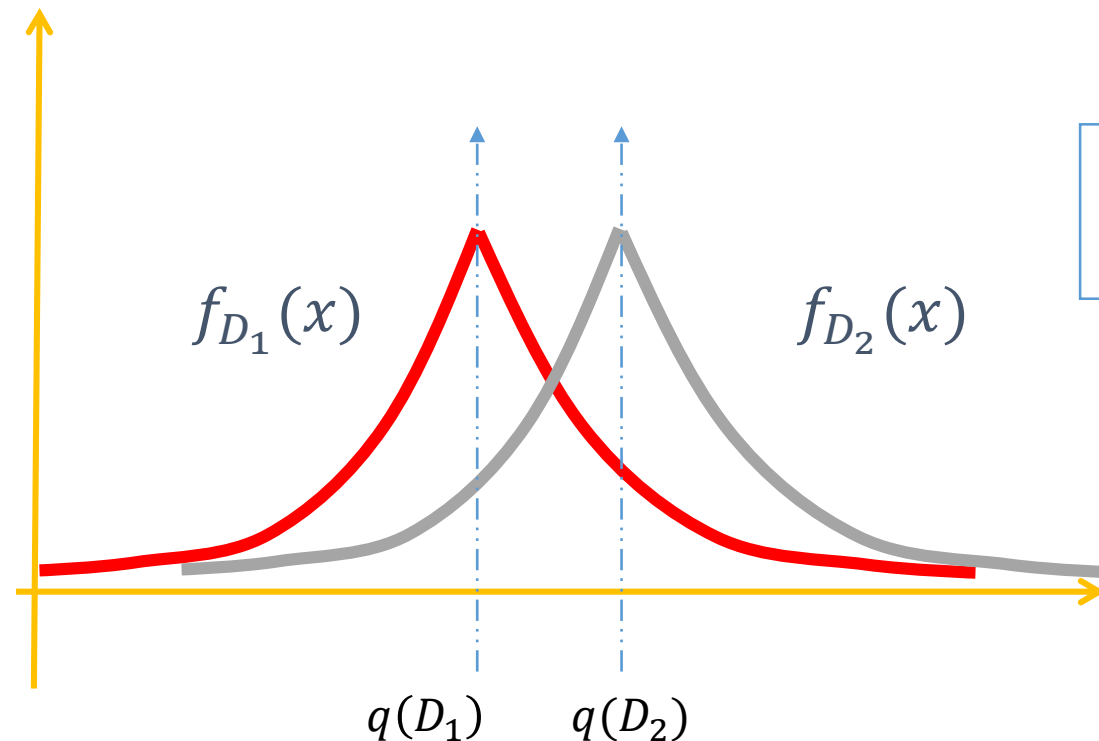
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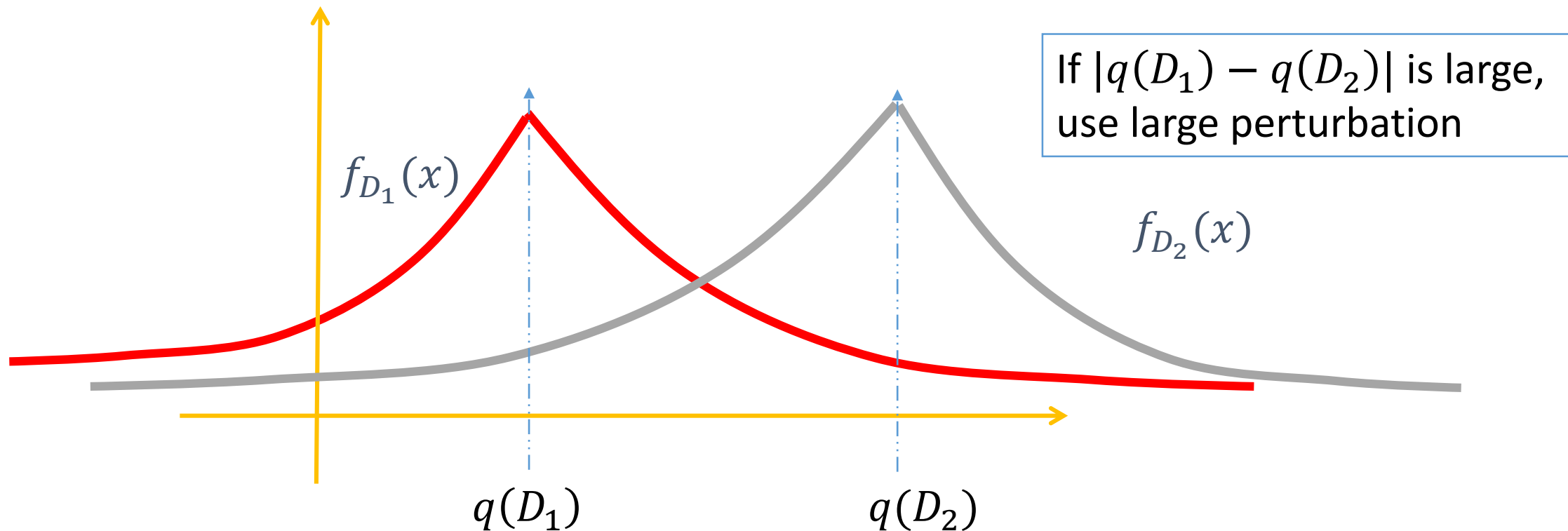
- **Q:** How much perturbation needed to achieve  $\epsilon$ -DP?
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If  $|q(D_1) - q(D_2)|$  is small,  
use small perturbation

# Background on Differential Privacy

- **Q:** How much perturbation needed to achieve  $\epsilon$ -DP?
- **A:** depends on how different  $q(D_1), q(D_2)$  are



# Background on Differential Privacy

- **Global Sensitivity**  $\Delta$ : how different when  $q$  is applied to neighboring datasets

$$\Delta := \max_{(D_1, D_2) \text{ are neighbors}} |q(D_1) - q(D_2)|$$

- Example: for a **count** query,  $\Delta = 1$

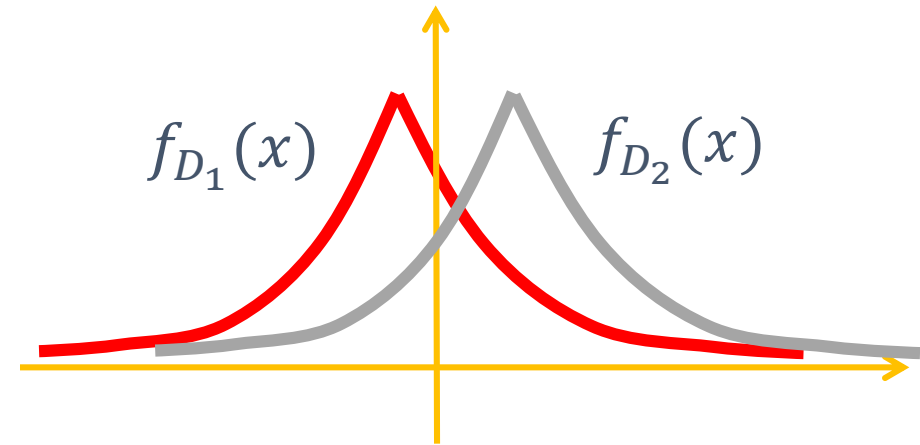
# Background on Differential Privacy

- Laplace Mechanism:

$$K(D) = q(D) + \text{Lap}\left(\frac{\Delta}{\epsilon}\right),$$

$\text{Lap}\left(\frac{\Delta}{\epsilon}\right)$  is a r.v. with p.d.f  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2\lambda} e^{-\frac{|x|}{\lambda}}$ ,  $\lambda = \frac{\Delta}{\epsilon}$

- Basic tool in DP



# Optimality of Existing work?

- Laplace Mechanism:

$$K(D) = q(D) + \text{Lap}\left(\frac{\Delta}{\epsilon}\right),$$

- Two Questions:
  - Is **data-independent** perturbation optimal?
  - Assume data-independent perturbation, is **Laplacian** distribution optimal?

# Optimality of Existing work?

- Laplace Mechanism:

$$K(D) = q(D) + \text{Lap}\left(\frac{\Delta}{\epsilon}\right),$$

- Two questions:
  - Is **data-independent** perturbation optimal?
  - Assume data-independent perturbation, is **Laplacian** distribution optimal?
- Our results:
  - **data-independent** perturbation is optimal
  - **Laplacian** distribution is not optimal: the optimal is **staircase** distribution

## Part One:

# The Optimal Mechanism in $\epsilon$ -Differential Privacy: Single Dimensional Setting

presented in my preliminary exam



# Recap of Part One: Problem Formulation

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} \sup_{t \in R} \int_{x \in R} L(x) v_t(dx) \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad v_{t_1}(S) \leq e^\epsilon v_{t_2}(S + t_1 - t_2), \\ & \forall \text{measurable set } S, \forall t_1, t_2 \in R, \text{ s.t. } |t_1 - t_2| \leq \Delta, \end{aligned}$$

$L: R \rightarrow R$  cost function on the noise  
 $v_t$  noise probability distribution given query output  $t$   
 $\Delta$  global sensitivity

# Recap of Part One: Main Results

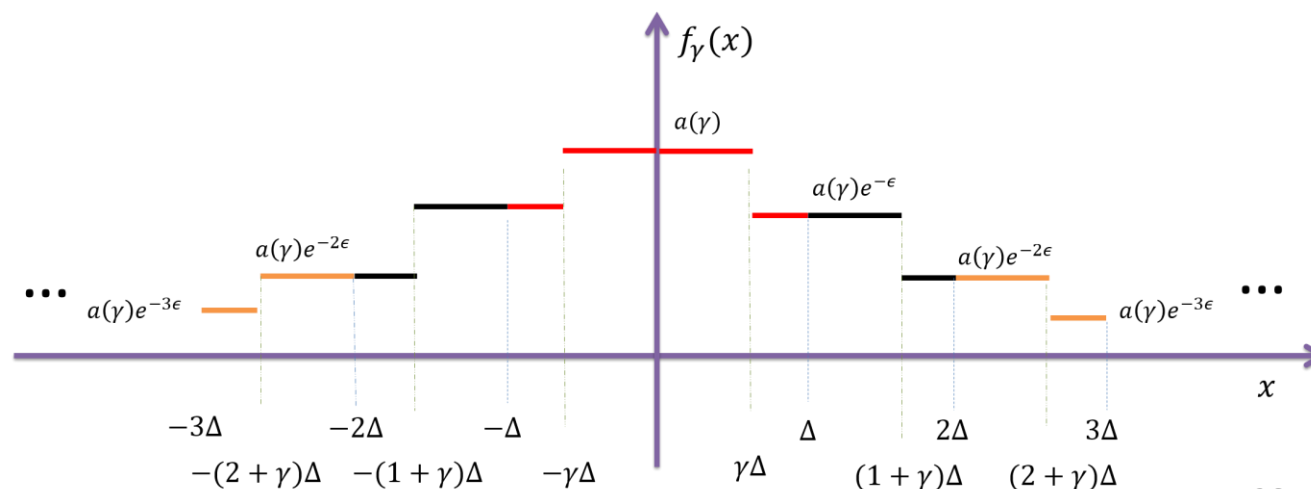
- **Optimality of query-output independent perturbation**

In the optimal mechanism,  $v_t$  is **independent** of  $t$  (under a technical condition).

- **Staircase Mechanism**

Optimal noise probability distribution has staircase-shaped p.d.f.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Minimize } \int L(x)P(dx) \\ \text{s.t. } & \Pr(X \in S) \leq e^\epsilon \Pr(X \in S + d), \\ & \forall |d| \leq \Delta, \text{ measurable set } S \end{aligned}$$



# Recap of Part One: Applications

- $\ell^1: \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{x}) = |\mathbf{x}|$

$$V(P_{\gamma^*}) = \Delta \frac{e^{\frac{\epsilon}{2}}}{e^\epsilon - 1}$$

$\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , the additive gap  $\rightarrow 0$

$\epsilon \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $V(P_{\gamma^*}) = \Theta(\Delta e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{2}})$

$$V_{Lap} = \frac{\Delta}{\epsilon}$$

- $\ell^2: \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^2$

$$V(\mathcal{P}_{\gamma^*}) = \Delta^2 \frac{2^{-2/3} b^{2/3} (1+b)^{2/3} + b}{(1-b)^2}.$$

$\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , the additive gap  $\leq c\Delta^2$

$\epsilon \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $V(P_{\gamma^*}) = \Theta(\Delta^2 e^{-\frac{2\epsilon}{3}})$

$$V_{Lap} = \frac{2\Delta^2}{\epsilon^2}$$

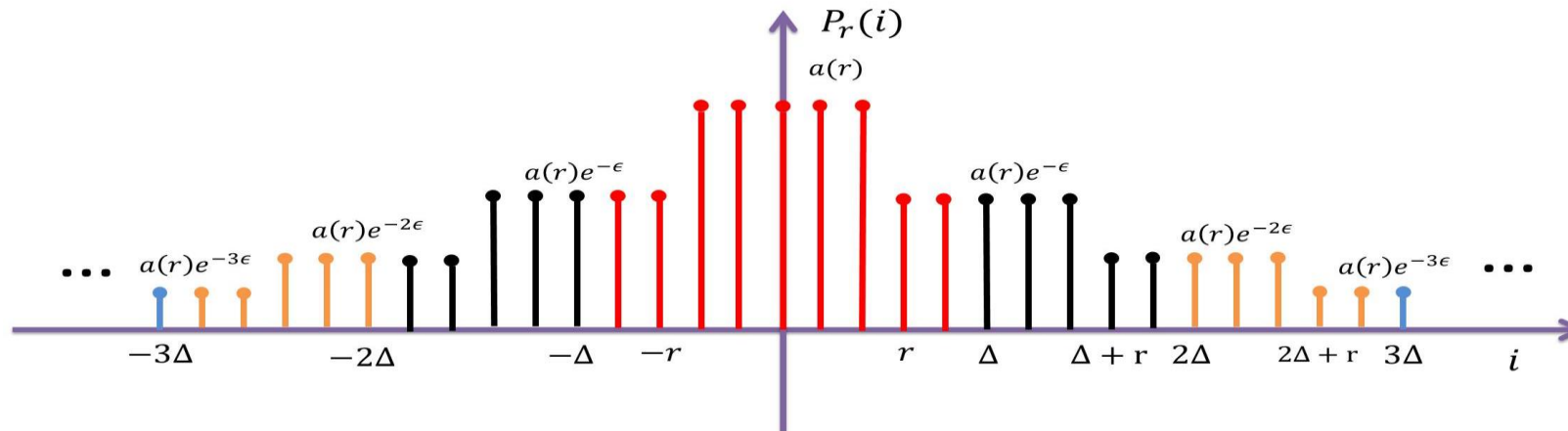
Huge improvement in **low** privacy regime

# Recap of Part One: Applications

- Properties of  $\gamma^*$  (for  $L(x) = |x|^m$ )

$$\gamma^* \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}, \text{ as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0,$$
$$\gamma^* \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } \epsilon \rightarrow +\infty.$$

- Extension to Discrete Setting



- Extension to Abstract Setting

# Conclusion of Part One:

- Fundamental tradeoff between **privacy** and **utility** in  $\epsilon$ -Differential Privacy
- **Staircase Mechanism**, optimal mechanism for single real-valued query
  - Huge improvement in **low** privacy regime
- Extension to **discrete setting** and **abstract setting**

## Part Two:

# The Optimal Mechanism in $\epsilon$ -Differential Privacy: Multiple Dimensional Setting

# Multiple Dimensional Setting

- Query output can have **multiple** components

$$\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{D}) = (\mathbf{q}_1(\mathbf{D}), \mathbf{q}_2(\mathbf{D}), \dots, \mathbf{q}_d(\mathbf{D})) \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

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- If all components are **uncorrelated**, perturb each component **independently** to preserve DP.



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- If all components are **uncorrelated**, perturb each component **independently** to preserve DP.
- Composition Theorem:  
For each component  $\mathbf{q}_i(\mathbf{D})$  preserving  $\epsilon$ -DP, end-to-end achieves  **$d\epsilon$** -DP.

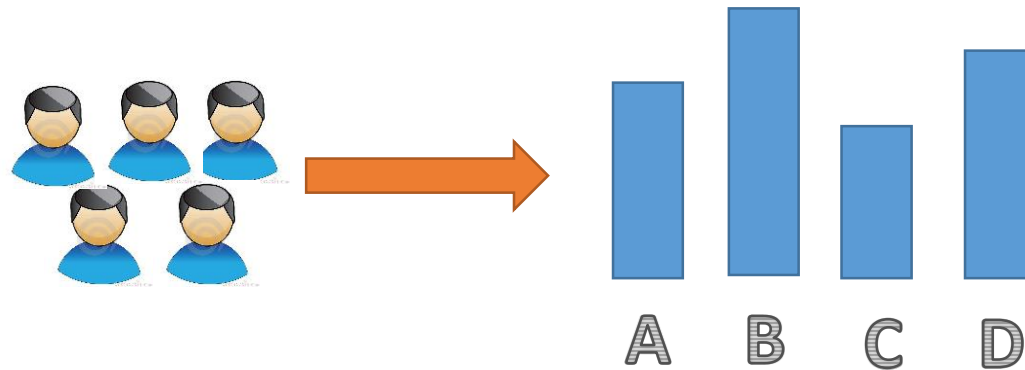
# Multiple Dimensional Setting

- Query output can have **multiple** components

$$\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{D}) = (q_1(\mathbf{D}), q_2(\mathbf{D}), \dots, q_d(\mathbf{D})) \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

- For some query, all components are **coupled** together.

Histogram query:  
one user can affect **only one**  
component



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- For some query, all components are **coupled** together.
- **Global sensitivity**

$$\Delta := \max_{\mathbf{D}_1, \mathbf{D}_2 \text{ are neighbors}} ||q(\mathbf{D}_1) - q(\mathbf{D}_2)||_1$$

Histogram query:  $\Delta = 1$

# Problem Formulation:

Query-output independent perturbation:

$$\begin{aligned} K(D) &= q(D) + X \\ &= (q_1(D) + x_1, q_2(D) + x_2, \dots, q_d(D) + x_d) \end{aligned}$$

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Cost function on the noise:

$$L: R^d \rightarrow R$$

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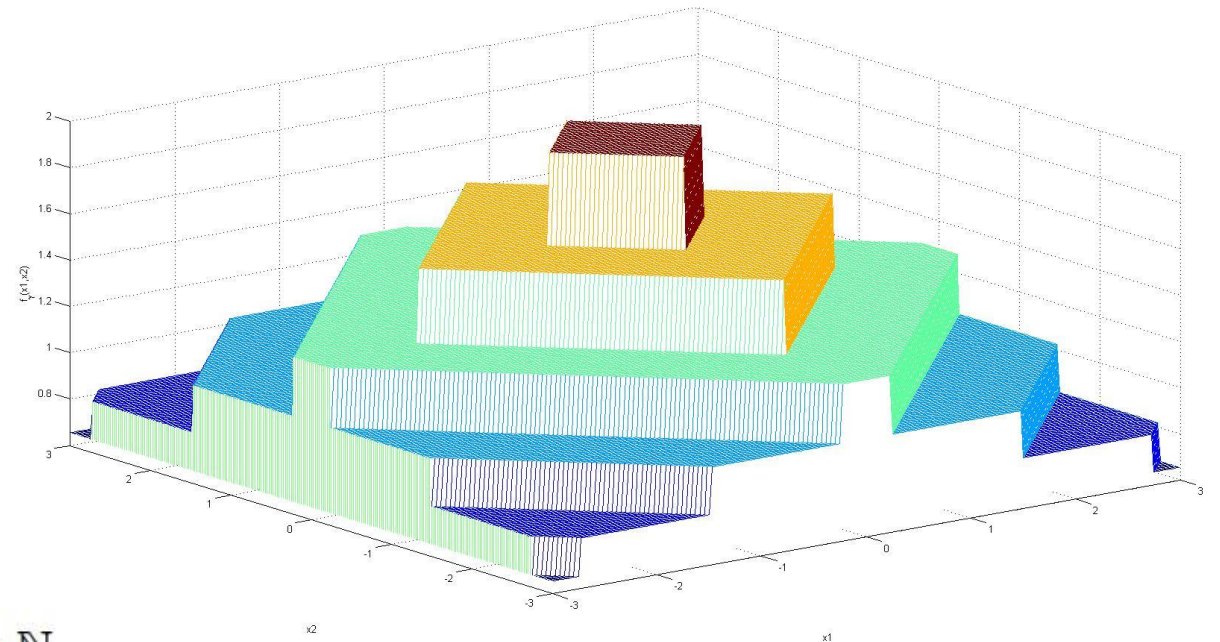
$$L: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} \iiint_{\mathbb{R}^d} L(x_1, \dots, x_d) P(dx_1 \cdots dx_d) \\ &\text{s.t. } P(S) \leq e^\epsilon P(S + \mathbf{t}), \forall S \subset \mathbb{R}^d, \|\mathbf{t}\|_1 \leq \Delta \end{aligned}$$

# Our Result: Optimality of Staircase Mechanism

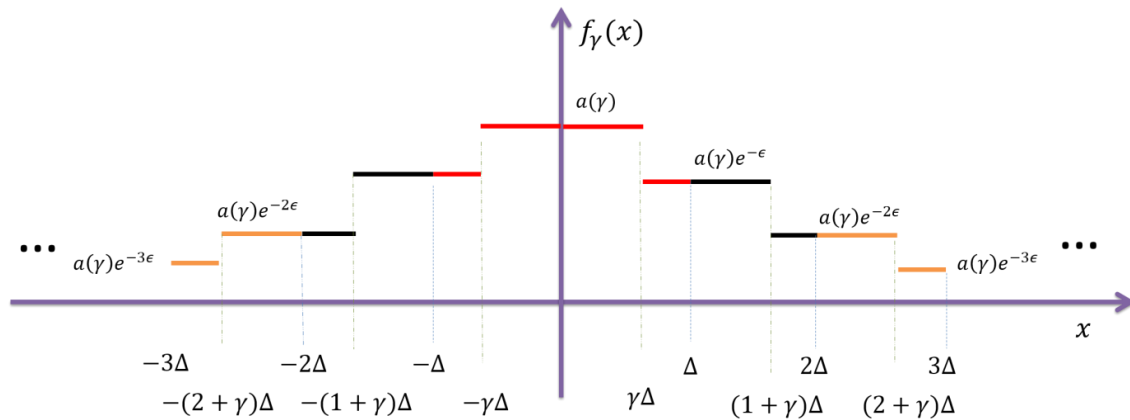
**Theorem:** If  $L(x_1, \dots, x_d) = |x_1| + \dots + |x_d|$ ,  $d = 2$ , then optimal probability distribution has **multidimensional staircase-shaped** p.d.f.



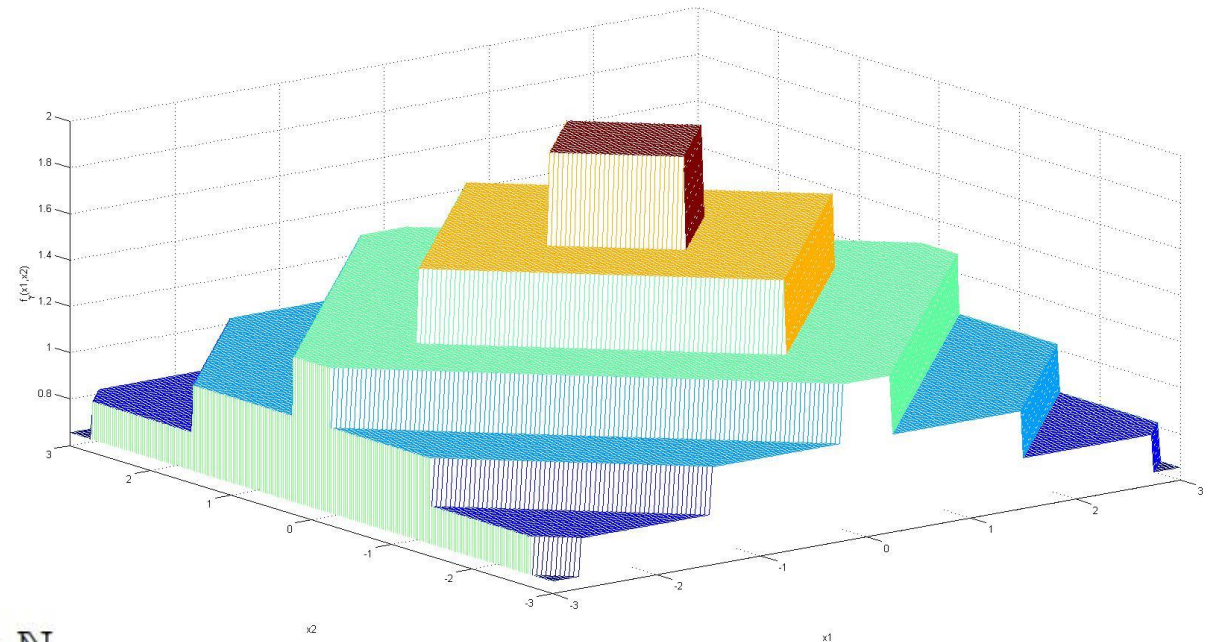
$$f_{\gamma}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} e^{-k\epsilon} a(\gamma) & \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \in [k\Delta, (k + \gamma)\Delta) \text{ for } k \in \mathbb{N} \\ e^{-(k+1)\epsilon} a(\gamma) & \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \in [(k + \gamma)\Delta, (k + 1)\Delta) \text{ for } k \in \mathbb{N} \end{cases}$$

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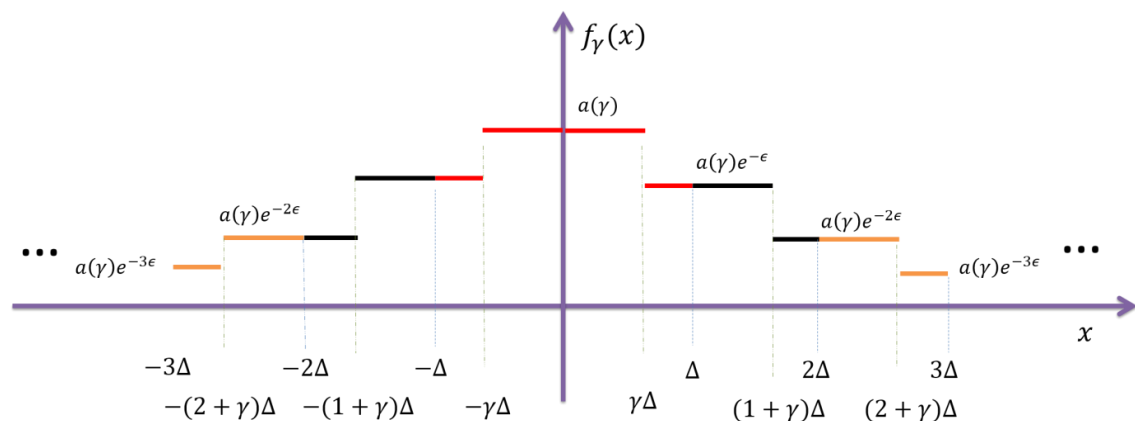
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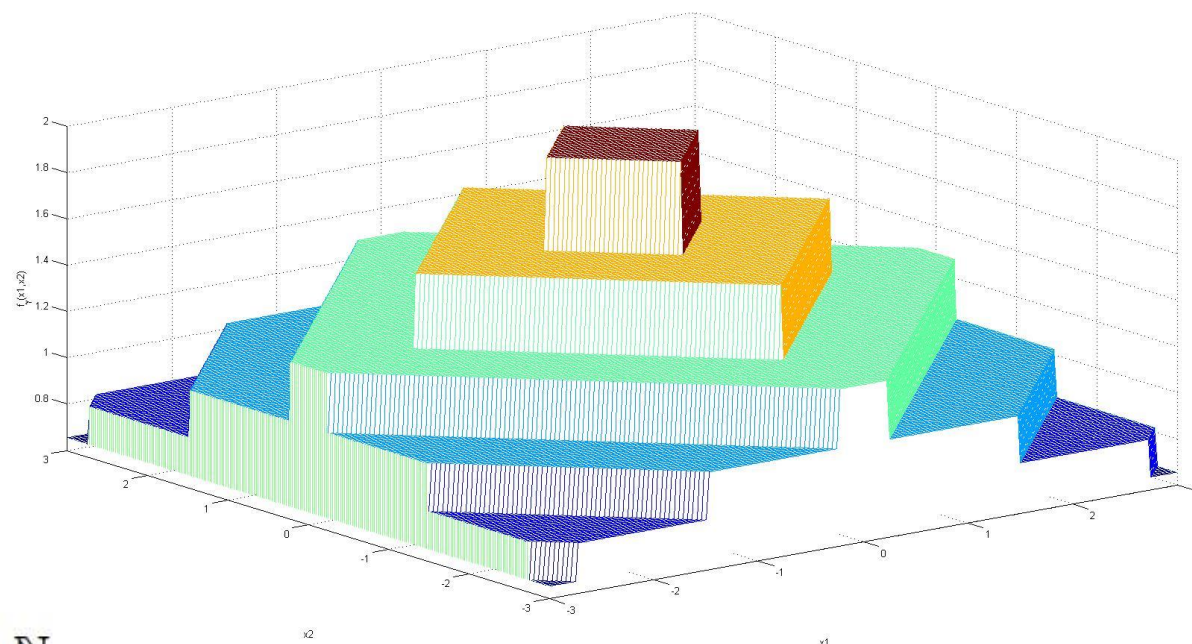


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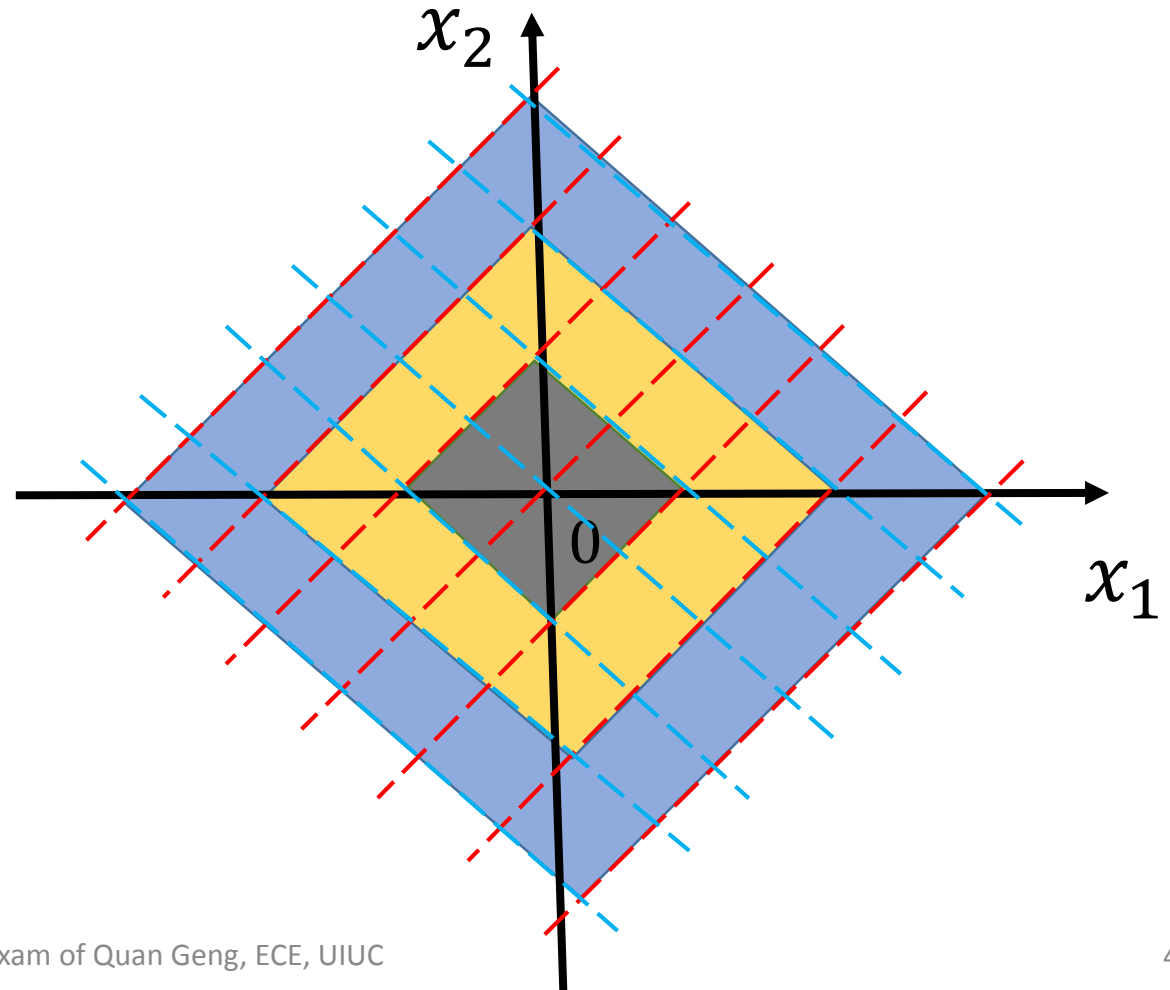


**Conjecture:** the result holds for any ***d***

# Proof Ideas

**Step 1:** Argue only need to consider multi-dimensional piecewise constant p.d.f. by averaging

**Averaging preserves DP**



# Proof Ideas

**Step 1:** Argue only need to consider multi-dimensional piecewise constant p.d.f. by averaging

## Averaging preserves DP

$$P1 \leq e^\epsilon P5$$

$$P1 \leq e^\epsilon P6$$

$$P1 \leq e^\epsilon P16$$

$$P1 \leq e^\epsilon P7$$

$$P1 \leq e^\epsilon P15$$

...

...

$$P4 \leq e^\epsilon P12$$

$$P4 \leq e^\epsilon P13$$

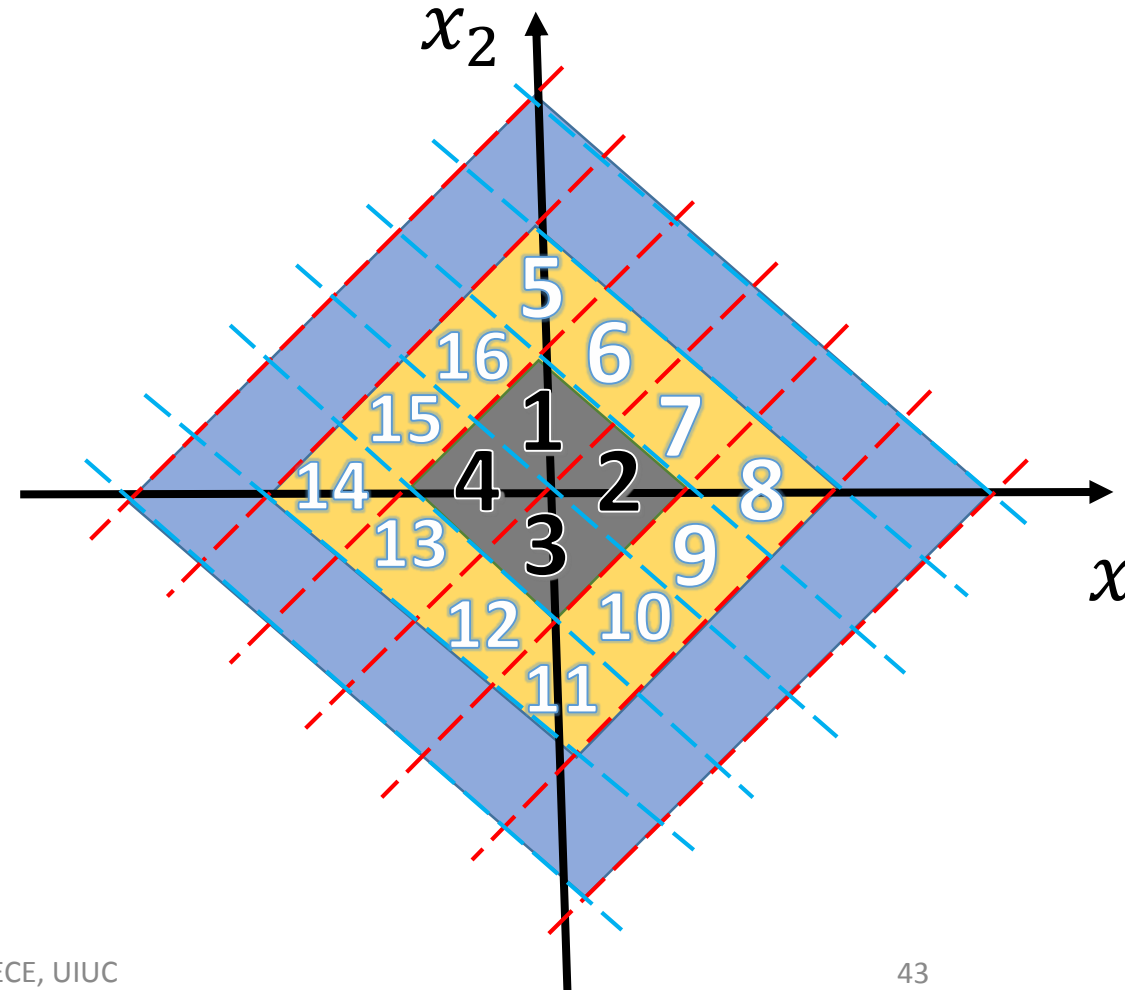
$$P4 \leq e^\epsilon P14$$

$$P4 \leq e^\epsilon P15$$

$$P4 \leq e^\epsilon P16$$



$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^4 P_i}{4} \leq e^\epsilon \frac{\sum_{i=5}^{16} P_i}{12}$$



# Proof Ideas

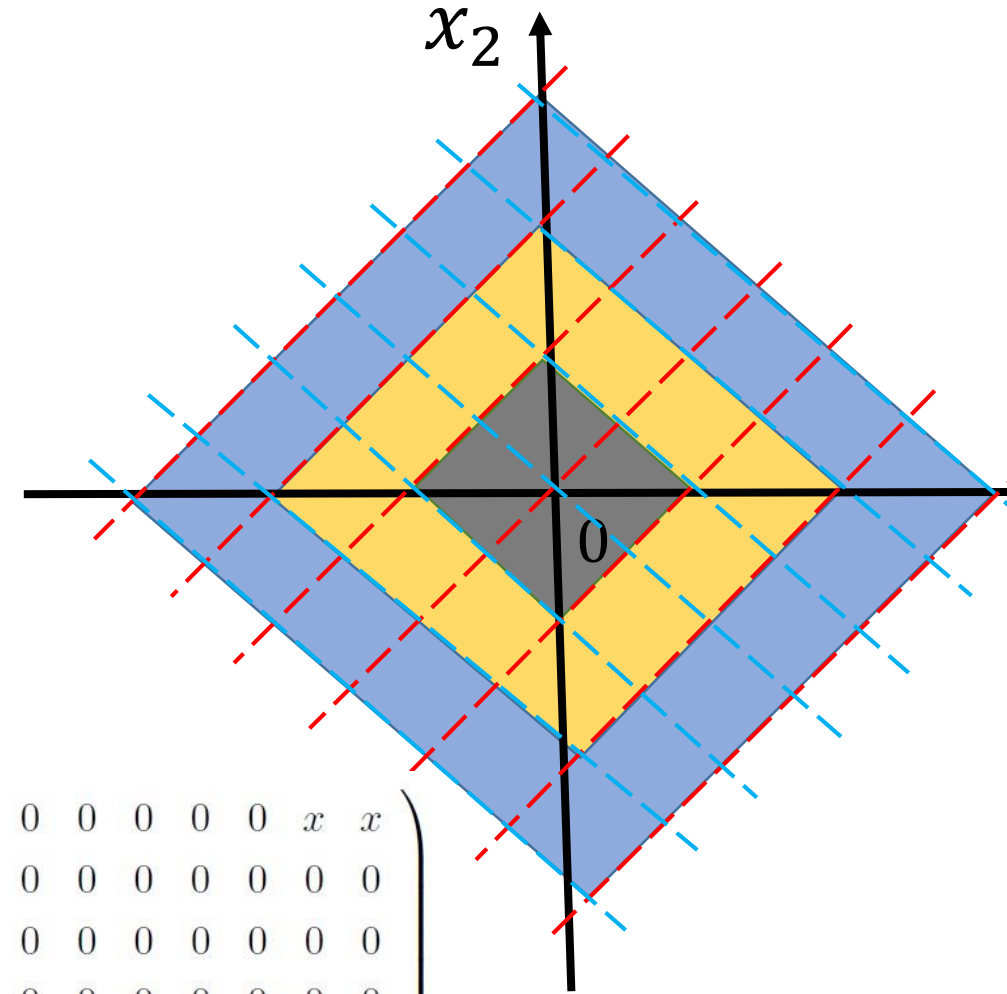
## Averaging preserves DP

Formulate a matrix filling-in problem

- row sum is a constant
- column sum is a constant

Explicit formula for  $d = 2$ ,  
and arbitrary  $\Delta$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x \\ 0 & x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & x & x & x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x & x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x & x & x & x & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x & x \end{pmatrix}$$



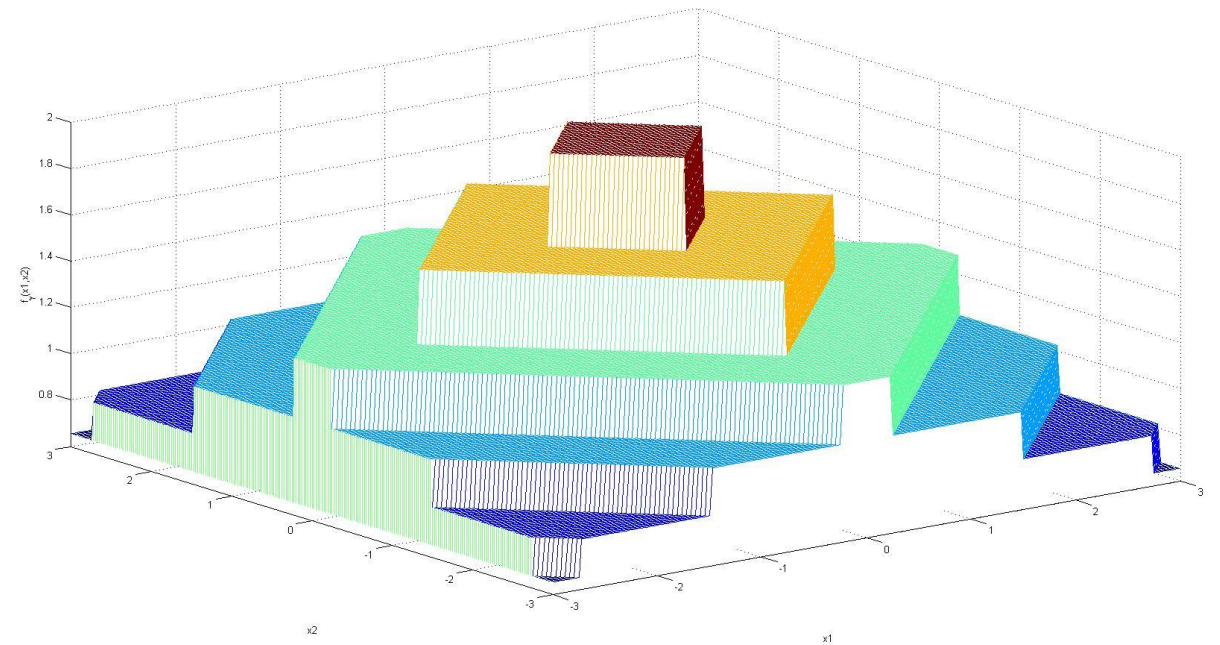
# Proof Ideas

Due to Step 1, the p.d.f. is **a function of  $\|X\|_1$**

**Step 2:** Monotonicity

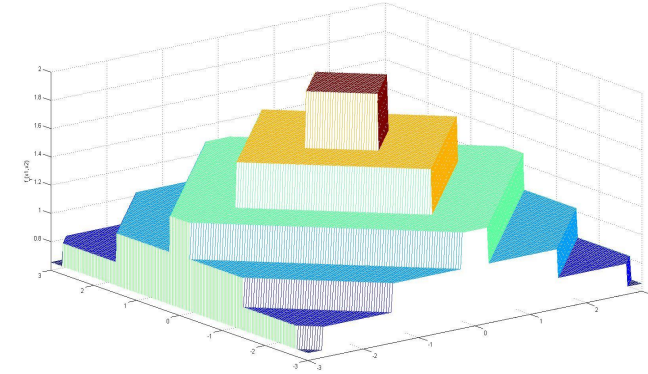
**Step 3:** Geometrically Decaying

**Step 4:** Staircase-Shape

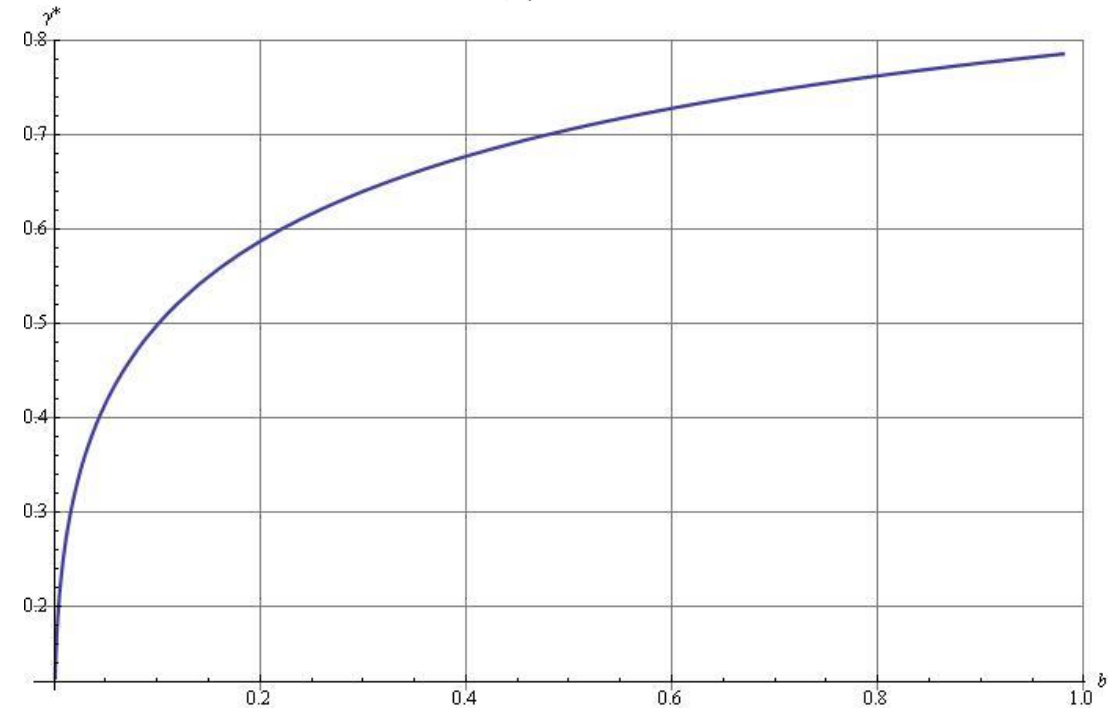


# Optimal $\gamma^*$ for $\ell^1$ cost function (d=2)

$$f_\gamma(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} e^{-k\epsilon} a(\gamma) & \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \in [k\Delta, (k+\gamma)\Delta) \text{ for } k \in \mathbb{N} \\ e^{-(k+1)\epsilon} a(\gamma) & \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \in [(k+\gamma)\Delta, (k+1)\Delta) \text{ for } k \in \mathbb{N} \end{cases}$$



$$\gamma^* = \arg \min_{\gamma \in [0,1]} \frac{\gamma^3 + \frac{3b}{1-b}\gamma^2 + \frac{3(b^2+b)}{(1-b)^2}\gamma + b\frac{1+4b+b^2}{(1-b)^3}}{\gamma^2 + \frac{2b}{1-b}\gamma + \frac{b+b^2}{(1-b)^2}}$$



# Asymptotic analysis

Laplacian Mechanism:  $V = \frac{2\Delta}{\epsilon}$

**Multidimensional Staircase Mechanism:**

High privacy regime( $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ ):

$$V^* = \frac{2\Delta}{\epsilon} - \frac{\Delta\epsilon^2}{36\sqrt{3}} + O(\epsilon^3)$$

Low privacy regime( $\epsilon \rightarrow \infty$ ):

$$V^* = \sqrt[3]{2}\Delta e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{3}} + \frac{\Delta e^{-\frac{2\epsilon}{3}}}{\sqrt[3]{2}} + o(e^{-\frac{2\epsilon}{3}})$$



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Low privacy regime ( $\epsilon \rightarrow \infty$ ):

$$V^* = \sqrt[3]{2}\Delta e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{3}} + \frac{\Delta e^{-\frac{2\epsilon}{3}}}{\sqrt[3]{2}} + o(e^{-\frac{2\epsilon}{3}})$$

**Independent Staircase Mechanism:**

$$V = \Theta(2\Delta e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{4}})$$



## Conclusion of Part Two:

- Extension of Optimality of Staircase Mechanism to **Multi-dimensional** Setting ( $d = 2$ )
  - Conjecture: holds for any dimension
- **Approximate Optimality** of Laplacian Mechanism in High Privacy Regime
- Huge **Improvement** in Low Privacy Regime

## Part Three:

# The Optimal Mechanism in $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -Differential Privacy

## Part Three: $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -differential privacy

- $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -differential privacy

$$\Pr(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{D}_1) \in \mathbf{S}) \leq e^\epsilon \Pr(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{D}_2) \in \mathbf{S}) + \delta$$

- Two special cases:

- $(\epsilon, 0)$ -differential privacy

- well studied in Part 1 and Part 2

- $(0, \delta)$ -differential privacy

$$\|P_{K(D_1)} - P_{K(D_2)}\|_{\text{TV}} \leq \delta$$

# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -Differential Privacy

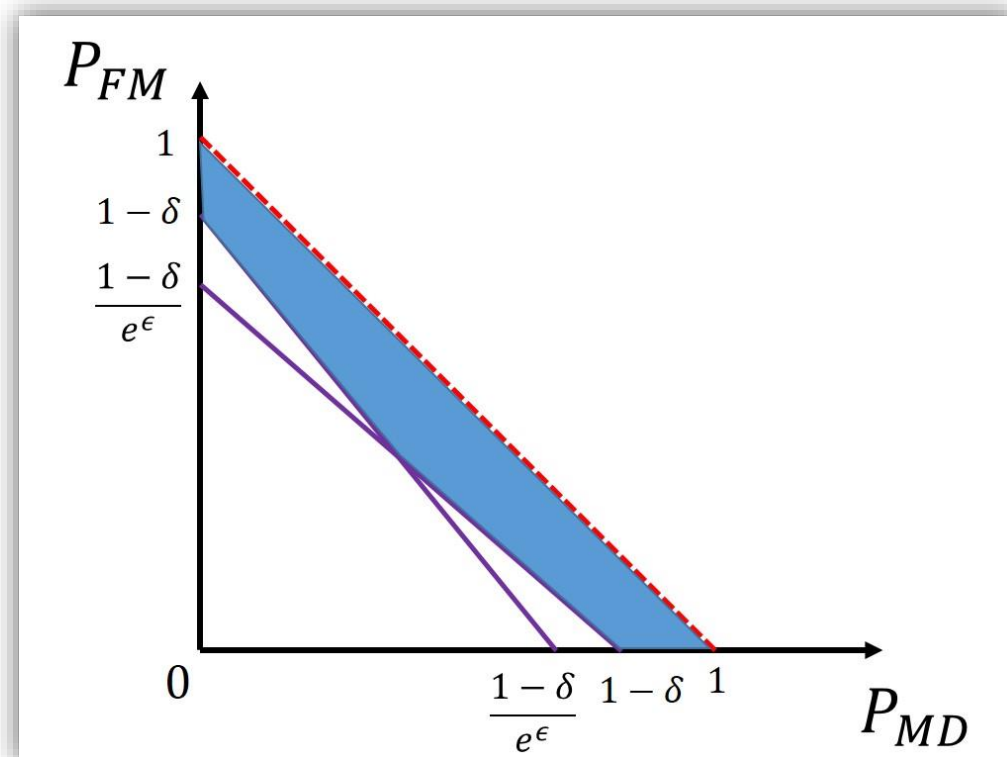
- $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -differential privacy

$$\Pr(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{D}_1) \in \mathbf{S}) \leq e^\epsilon \Pr(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{D}_2) \in \mathbf{S}) + \delta$$

- Make hypothesis testing hard:

$$e^\epsilon P_{FA} + P_{MD} \geq 1 - \delta$$

$$P_{FA} + e^\epsilon P_{MD} \geq 1 - \delta$$



# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -Differential Privacy

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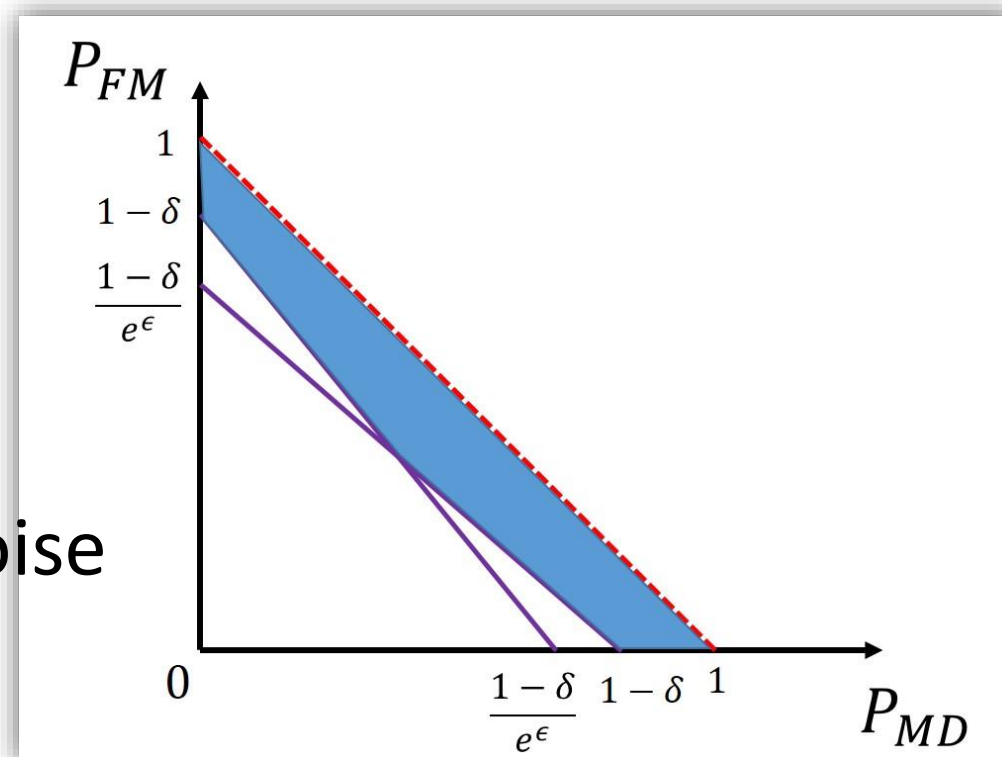
$$\Pr(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{D}_1) \in \mathbf{S}) \leq e^\epsilon \Pr(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{D}_2) \in \mathbf{S}) + \delta$$

- Make hypothesis testing hard:

$$e^\epsilon P_{FA} + P_{MD} \geq 1 - \delta$$

$$P_{FA} + e^\epsilon P_{MD} \geq 1 - \delta$$

- Standard approach: adding Gaussian noise



# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -Differential Privacy

- $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -differential privacy

$$\Pr(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{D}_1) \in \mathbf{S}) \leq e^\epsilon \Pr(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{D}_2) \in \mathbf{S}) + \delta$$

- What is the **optimal** noise probability distribution in this setting?

- **Our Results:**

- $(0, \delta)$ -DP

Optimality of **Uniform Noise Mechanism**

- $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP

Not much more general than  $(\epsilon, 0)$ - and  $(0, \delta)$ -DP

Near-Optimality of **Laplacian** and **Uniform Noise Mechanism** in high privacy regime as  $(\epsilon, \delta) \rightarrow (0, 0)$

# Problem Formulation

$$\begin{aligned} V^* &:= \min \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} L(i)P(i) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad &P(S) \leq e^\epsilon P(S + d) + \delta, \\ &\forall S \subset Z, d \in Z, |d| \leq \Delta \end{aligned}$$

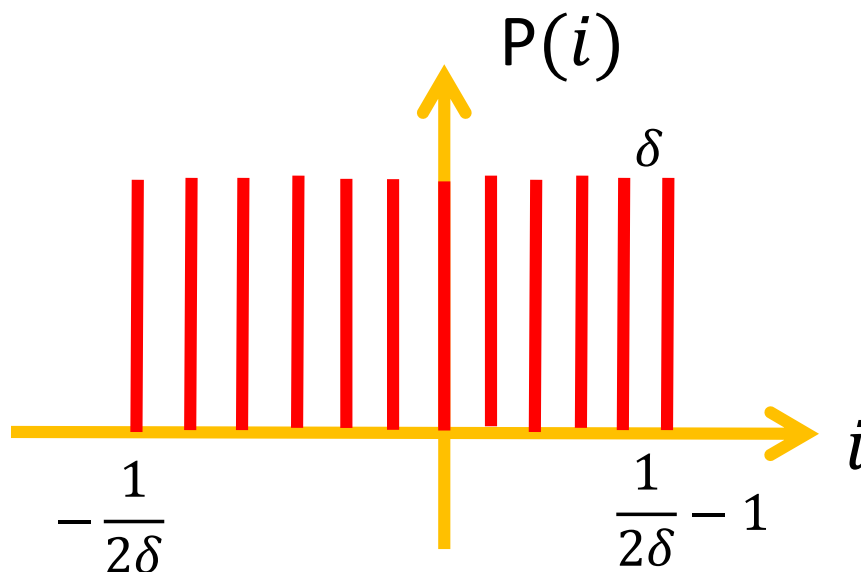
# $(0, \delta)$ -Differential Privacy

$$V^* := \min \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} L(i)P(i)$$

$$\text{s.t. } P(S) \leq P(S + d) + \delta, \\ \forall S \subset Z, d \in Z, |d| \leq \Delta$$

- **Theorem:**

If  $\Delta = 1$ , assuming  $\frac{1}{2\delta}$  is an integer, optimal noise P.D. is





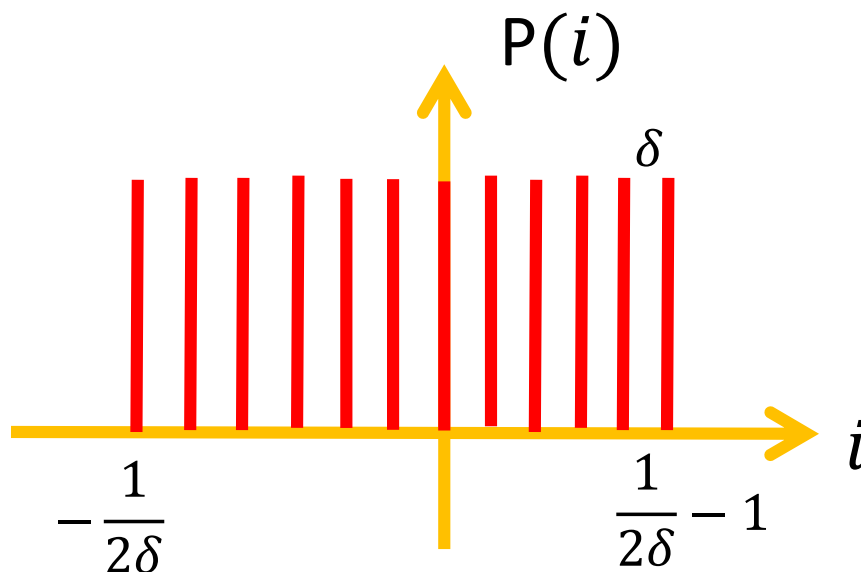
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## • Theorem:

If  $\Delta = 1$ , assuming  $\frac{1}{2\delta}$  is an integer, optimal noise P.D. is



Proof idea:

choose  $S = S_k = \{l: l \geq k\}$ ,  
then  $P(k) \leq \delta, \forall k$

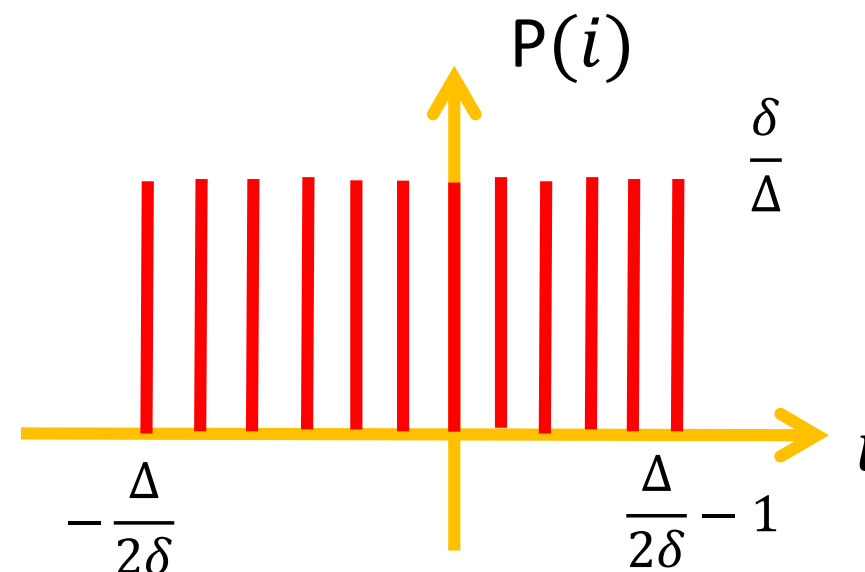
# $(0, \delta)$ -DP: General $\Delta$

$$V^* := \min \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} L(i)P(i)$$

s.t.  $P(S) \leq P(S + d) + \delta,$   
 $\forall S \subset \mathbb{Z}, d \in \mathbb{Z}, |d| \leq \Delta$

- **Upper Bound:** Uniform Noise Mechanism

$$V^* \leq V_{UB} := 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{\delta}{2\Delta}-1} \frac{\delta}{\Delta} L(i) + \frac{\delta}{\Delta} L\left(\frac{\Delta}{2\delta}\right)$$



# $(0, \delta)$ -DP: General $\Delta$

$$V^* := \min \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} L(i)P(i)$$

$$\text{s.t. } P(S) \leq P(S + d) + \delta, \\ \forall S \in \mathbb{Z}, d \in \mathbb{Z}, |d| \leq \Delta$$

- **Lower Bound:** Duality of Linear Programming

choose  $S = S_k = \{l: l \geq k\}$ , then  $\sum_{i=k}^{k+\Delta-1} P(i) \leq \delta, \forall k$

$$V_{LB} := \min \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2 \mathcal{L}(k) \mathcal{P}_k$$

$$\text{such that } \mathcal{P}_k \geq 0 \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{P}_0}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_k \geq \frac{1}{2}$$

$$-\sum_{\ell=0}^{\Delta-1} \mathcal{P}_{k+\ell} \geq -\delta, \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

# $(0, \delta)$ -DP: General $\Delta$

$$V^* := \min \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} L(i)P(i)$$

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$$-\sum_{\ell=0}^{\Delta-1} \mathcal{P}_{k+\ell} \geq -\delta, \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

$$V_{LB} = 2\delta \sum_{i=0}^{\frac{1}{2\delta}-1} L(1 + i\Delta)$$

## $(0, \delta)$ -DP: Comparison of $V_{LB}$ , $V_{UB}$

- $L(i) = |i|$

$$V_{LB} = \frac{\Delta}{4\delta} + 1 - \frac{\Delta}{2},$$
$$V_{UB} = \frac{\Delta}{4\delta},$$

Constant  
additive gap

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- $L(i) = |i|^2$

$$V_{LB} = \frac{\Delta^2}{12\delta^2} - \frac{\Delta^2}{4\delta} + \Delta\left(\frac{1}{2\delta} - 1\right) + \frac{\Delta^2}{6} + 1,$$
$$V_{UB} = \frac{\Delta^2}{12\delta^2} + \frac{1}{6},$$

Constant  
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$$V_{UB} = \frac{\Delta^2}{12\delta^2} + \frac{1}{6},$$

Constant  
multiplicative  
gap

- $L(i) = |i|^m$

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{V_{UB}}{V_{LB}} = 1.$$

# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP: Upper Bound

$$V^* := \min \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} L(i)P(i)$$

s.t.  $P(S) \leq e^\epsilon P(S + d) + \delta,$   
 $\forall S \subset Z, d \in Z, |d| \leq \Delta$

- Both  $(\epsilon, 0)$ -DP and  $(0, \delta)$ -DP imply  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP

$$V^* \leq \min (V_{Lap}, V_{Uniform})$$

Laplacian Mechanism:

continuous:  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2\lambda} e^{-\frac{|x|}{\lambda}}, \quad \lambda = \frac{\Delta}{\epsilon}$

discrete:  $P(k) = \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{\Delta}}}{1 + e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{\Delta}}} e^{-|k| \frac{\epsilon}{\Delta}}$



# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP: Lower Bound

$$V^* := \min \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} L(i)P(i)$$

$$\text{s.t. } P(S) \leq e^\epsilon P(S + d) + \delta, \\ \forall S \subset Z, d \in Z, |d| \leq \Delta$$

- Lower Bound:** Duality of Linear Programming

choose  $S = S_k = \{l: l \geq k\}$ , by symmetry

$$V_{LB} := \min 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{L}(k) \mathcal{P}_k$$

$$\text{such that } \mathcal{P}_k \geq 0 \quad \forall k \in N$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{P}_0}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_k \geq \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_0 \frac{1 + e^\epsilon}{2} + e^\epsilon \sum_{k=1}^{\Delta-1} \mathcal{P}_k \leq \delta + \frac{e^\epsilon - 1}{2}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_0 \frac{e^\epsilon - 1}{2} + e^\epsilon \sum_{k=1}^{\Delta} \mathcal{P}_k \leq \delta + \frac{e^\epsilon - 1}{2}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_0 \frac{e^\epsilon - 1}{2} + (e^\epsilon - 1) \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} \mathcal{P}_k + e^\epsilon \sum_{k=i}^{i+\Delta-1} \mathcal{P}_k \leq \delta + \frac{e^\epsilon - 1}{2}, \forall i \geq 2.$$

## $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP: Comparison of $V_{LB}$ , $V_{UB}$

- $L(i) = |i|$ , as  $(\epsilon, \delta) \rightarrow (0,0)$

$$\frac{\min(V_{Lap}, V_{Uniform})}{5.29} \leq V_{LB} \leq V^* \leq V_{UB} = \min(V_{Lap}, V_{Uniform})$$
$$= \Theta\left(\min\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}, \frac{1}{\delta}\right)\right)$$

# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP: Comparison of $V_{LB}$ , $V_{UB}$

- $L(i) = |i|$ , as  $(\epsilon, \delta) \rightarrow (0,0)$

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$$= \Theta\left(\min\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}, \frac{1}{\delta}\right)\right)$$

- $L(i) = |i|^2$ , as  $(\epsilon, \delta) \rightarrow (0,0)$

$$\frac{\min(V_{Lap}, V_{Uniform})}{40} \leq V_{LB} \leq V^* \leq V_{UB} = \min(V_{Lap}, V_{Uniform})$$
$$= \Theta\left(\min\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}, \frac{1}{\delta^2}\right)\right)$$

# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP: Multi-Dimensional Setting

$$\begin{aligned} V^* := \min \sum_{Z^d} L(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d) P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d) \\ \text{s.t. } P(S) \leq P(S + d) + \delta, \\ \forall S \subset Z^d, d \in Z^d, \|d\|_1 \leq \Delta \end{aligned}$$

- **Upper Bound**

Uniform Noise Mechanism

$$\mathcal{P}(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d) = \begin{cases} \frac{\delta^d}{\Delta^d} & -\frac{\Delta}{2\delta} \leq i_m \leq \frac{\Delta}{2\delta} - 1, \forall m \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Discrete Laplacian Mechanism

$$P(i_1, \dots, i_d) = \left( \frac{1 - \lambda}{1 + \lambda} \right)^d \lambda^{|i_1| + \dots + |i_d|}, \lambda = e^{-\epsilon/\Delta}$$

# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP: Multi-Dimensional Setting

$$\begin{aligned} V^* := \min \sum_{Z^d} L(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d) P(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad P(S) \leq P(S + d) + \delta, \\ \forall S \subset Z^d, d \in Z^d, \|d\|_1 \leq \Delta \end{aligned}$$

- **Lower Bound**

1. Choose certain sets  $S = S_k^m := \{(i_1, \dots, i_d) \in Z^d \mid i_m \geq k\}$
2. Write down Linear program, and derive the dual problem
3. Find proper dual variables to get lower bound

# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP: Multi-Dimensional Setting

## Primal Problem

$$V^* \geq V_{LB} := \min_{\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{i}) \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{i}) \quad (4.30)$$

$$\text{such that } \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{i}) \geq 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{Z}^d$$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{i}) \geq 1$$

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, \forall m \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\},$$

$$\sum_{(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d: k \leq i_m \leq k + \Delta - 1} \mathcal{P}(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d) - (e^\epsilon - 1) \sum_{(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d: i_m \geq k + \Delta} \mathcal{P}(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d) \leq \delta.$$

## Dual Problem

$$V_{LB} := \max \quad \mu - \delta \left( \sum_{i_1 \in \mathbb{Z}} y_{i_1}^{(1)} + \sum_{i_2 \in \mathbb{Z}} y_{i_2}^{(2)} + \dots + \sum_{i_d \in \mathbb{Z}} y_{i_d}^{(d)} \right)$$

$$\text{such that } y_{i_1}^{(1)}, y_{i_2}^{(2)}, \dots, y_{i_d}^{(d)} \geq 0, \forall i_1 \in \mathbb{Z}, i_2 \in \mathbb{Z}, \dots, i_d \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \mu - \sum_{i_1 \in [k_1 - \Delta + 1, k_1]} y_{i_1}^{(1)} + (e^\epsilon - 1) \sum_{i_1 \leq k_1 - \Delta} y_{i_1}^{(1)} \\ & - \dots - \sum_{i_d \in [k_d - \Delta + 1, k_d]} y_{i_d}^{(d)} + (e^\epsilon - 1) \sum_{i_d \leq k_d - \Delta} y_{i_d}^{(d)} \\ & \leq |k_1| + |k_2| + \dots + |k_d|, \forall (k_1, \dots, k_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d. \end{aligned}$$

# $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP: Multi-Dimensional Setting

- $(0, \delta)$ -DP:

$\ell^1$

$$\begin{aligned} V_{LB} &\geq \frac{d\Delta}{4\delta} - \frac{\Delta - 1}{2}d, \\ V_{UB} &= \frac{d\Delta}{4\delta}, \end{aligned}$$

$\ell^2$

$$\begin{aligned} V_{LB} &\geq \frac{d\Delta^2}{12\delta^2} + \left(\frac{1}{\Delta} - 1\right)\frac{d\Delta^2}{4\delta} + \frac{1 - \Delta}{2}d + \frac{d\Delta^2}{6}, \\ V_{UB} &= \frac{d\Delta^2}{12\delta^2} + \frac{d}{6}, \end{aligned}$$

Uniform Noise Mechanism is Optimal when  $\Delta = 1$

- $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP:

$$\frac{\min(V_{Lap}, V_{Uniform})}{C} \leq V_{LB} \leq V^* \leq V_{UB} = \min(V_{Lap}, V_{Uniform})$$

$$\begin{aligned} C &\approx 9.49, \text{ for } \ell^1 \\ C &\approx 113, \text{ for } \ell^2 \end{aligned}$$

# Conclusion of Part Three

- Near-Optimality of **Uniform Noise Mechanism** in  $(0, \delta)$ -DP
- $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP is **not much more general** than  $(0, \delta)$ -DP and  $(\epsilon, 0)$ -DP

$$\frac{\min(V_{Lap}, V_{Uniform})}{C} \leq V_{LB} \leq V^* \leq V_{UB} = \min(V_{Lap}, V_{Uniform})$$



# Conclusion

- Fundamental tradeoff between **privacy** and **utility** in Differential Privacy
- **Staircase Mechanism**, optimal mechanism in  $\epsilon$ -DP
  - Huge improvement in **low** privacy regime
  - Extension to Multi-Dimensional Setting
- Uniform Noise Mechanism, near-optimal mechanism in  $(0, \delta)$ -DP
- $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP is **not much more general** than  $(0, \delta)$ -DP and  $(\epsilon, 0)$ -DP

# Acknowledgment

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# Thank you!