

Proposition 1 *Let $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be the vector to be normalized, sort the elements in \mathbf{b} in descending order, $\mathbf{c} = \text{Sparsemax}(\mathbf{b})$, k is the number of non-zero elements in \mathbf{c} , $\forall j : 1 \leq j \leq n$, if $\exists j : b_j - b_{j+1} \geq 1$, then $j > k$.*

Proof of Prop.1

From the algorithm in the paper, there are the following conclusions:

$$k = \max \left\{ k \in [n] \mid 1 + kb_k > \sum_{j \leq k} b_j \right\} \quad (1)$$

Thus,

$$1 + kb_k > \sum_{j \leq k} b_j \quad (2)$$

Then there is the following formula:

$$\sum_{j \leq k} (b_j - b_k) < 1 \quad (3)$$

$\forall 1 \leq l \leq k - 1$, because of $b_l - b_{l+1} \geq 0$, Therefore, the following formula holds

$$b_l - b_k \geq b_l - b_{l+1} \quad (4)$$

Then, proof by contradiction. if $\exists 1 \leq j \leq k, b_j - b_{j+1} \geq 1$

from Eq.(4):

$$b_j - b_k \geq 1 \quad (5)$$

Then,

$$\sum_{j \leq k} (b_j - b_k) \geq 1 \quad (6)$$

Eq.(6) contradicts Eq.(3).

Therefore, For any $j, 1 \leq j \leq n$, if $\exists b_j - b_{j+1} \geq 1$, then $j > k$.