

**Theorem:** Fixing a database  $x \in X^*$ , a quality function  $u : X^* \times \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , approximation and probability parameters  $\alpha, \beta$ .

denote:  $OPT_u(x) = \max_{r \in \mathcal{R}} (u(x, r))$

for the configuration in the *Flat – Concave* mechanism, step-9:

if

$$OPT_u(x) \geq \frac{2}{\epsilon\alpha} \cdot \ln \left( |\bar{R}_\alpha| \left( \frac{1}{\beta} - 2 \right) + 1 \right)$$

it holds that

$$Pr[u(\mathcal{M}(x, u, \mathcal{R})) \leq (1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u] \leq \beta$$

**Proof:**

denote:

- $R_{OPT} = \{r \in \mathcal{R} | u(x, r) = OPT_u(x)\}$
- $R_\alpha = \{r \in \mathcal{R} | u(x, r) \geq (1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\}$
- $R'_\alpha = R_\alpha \setminus R_{OPT} = \{r \in \mathcal{R} | OPT_u(x) > u(x, r) \geq (1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\}$
- $\bar{R}_\alpha = \mathcal{R} \setminus R_\alpha = \{r \in \mathcal{R} | u(x, r) < (1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\}$

we want to the parameters s.t.

$$Pr[u(\mathcal{M}(x, u, \mathcal{R})) \leq (1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u] = Pr[\mathcal{M}(x, u, \mathcal{R}) \in \bar{R}_\alpha] \leq \beta$$

each element from  $\bar{R}_\alpha$  has mass probability of at most  $\exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right)$

so the entire set of “bad” elements has total probability mass of at most  $|\bar{R}_\alpha| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right)$

on the other side elements that aren’t in  $\bar{R}_\alpha$  can be of two types:

1.  $r \in R_{OPT}$  such elements has probability mass of  $\exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2} \cdot OPT_u(x)\right)$
2.  $r \in R'_\alpha$  such elements has probability mass of at least  $\exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right)$

so the entire set of “good” elements has total probability mass of at most

$$|R'_\alpha| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right) + |R_{OPT}| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2} \cdot OPT_u(x)\right)$$

hence this is a lower bound on the normalization term and in total we get that

$$Pr[\mathcal{M}(x, u, \mathcal{R}) \in \bar{R}_\alpha] \leq \frac{|\bar{R}_\alpha| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right)}{|R'_\alpha| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right) + |R_{OPT}| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2} \cdot OPT_u(x)\right)}$$

we defined the bound on the probability as  $\beta$  so it must hold that

$$\frac{|\bar{R}_\alpha| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right)}{|R'_\alpha| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right) + |R_{OPT}| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2} \cdot OPT_u(x)\right)} \leq \beta \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{|\bar{R}_\alpha|}{\beta} \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1-\alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right) &\leq |R_\alpha| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1-\alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)\right) + |R_{OPT}| \exp\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2} \cdot OPT_u(x)\right) \\
&\Rightarrow e^{\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1-\alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x)} \left( \frac{|\bar{R}_\alpha|}{\beta} - (|R| - |\bar{R}_\alpha| - 1) \right) \leq e^{\frac{\epsilon}{2} \cdot OPT_u(x)} \\
&\Rightarrow \frac{\epsilon}{2}(1-\alpha) \cdot OPT_u(x) + \ln\left( \frac{|\bar{R}_\alpha|}{\beta} - (|R| - |\bar{R}_\alpha| - 1) \right) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} \cdot OPT_u(x) \\
&\Rightarrow \frac{2}{\epsilon\alpha} \cdot \ln\left( |\bar{R}_\alpha| \left( \frac{1}{\beta} - 1 \right) - |R| + 1 \right) \leq OPT_u(x)
\end{aligned}$$

since by definition  $|\bar{R}_\alpha| < |R|$  if

$$OPT_u(x) \geq \frac{2}{\epsilon\alpha} \cdot \ln\left( |R_\alpha| \left( \frac{1}{\beta} - 2 \right) + 1 \right)$$

we get the appropriate bound.

**Remark:** using the bound proved in *Algorithmic Foundations of Differential Privacy*<sup>1</sup>

$$Pr \left[ u(\mathcal{M}_E(x, u, \mathcal{R})) \leq OPT_u(x) - \frac{2\Delta u}{\epsilon} \left( \ln\left( \frac{|\mathcal{R}|}{|R_{OPT}|} \right) + t \right) \right] \leq e^{-t}$$

we can show that the bound is

$$OPT_u(x) \geq \frac{16}{3\epsilon\alpha} \ln\left( \frac{|\mathcal{R}|}{\beta} \right)$$

the result above is lower than this one when

$$|\mathcal{R}| > \frac{\beta}{\exp\left(\frac{10}{3\epsilon\alpha}\right) + 2\beta - 1}$$

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<sup>1</sup>C.Dwork , A.roth