

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

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

if $|R_{OPT}| = 1$, $\Delta u = 1$ and

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

it holds that

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

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.

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

each element from \bar{R}_α 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}_α 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 β 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

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

we get the appropriate bound.

Remark 1: in the special case where $|R_{OPT}| = 1$ and

$$R_\alpha = R_{OPT} \Rightarrow \bar{R}_\alpha = R \setminus R_{OPT} \Rightarrow |\bar{R}_\alpha| = |R| - |R_{OPT}|$$

we get that if

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

it holds that

$$Pr[u(\mathcal{M}(x, u, \mathcal{R})) \neq OPT_u(x)] \leq \beta$$

Remark 2: In *Algorithmic Foundations of Differential Privacy*¹ the following additive bound had been proved:

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

¹C.Dwork, A.Roth