

# impl TopKMeasure for MaxDivergence

Michael Shoemate

August 19, 2025

## 1 Hoare Triple

### Precondition

#### Compiler-verified

- Method `noisy_top_k` *Types consistent with pseudocode.*
- Method `privacy_map` *Types consistent with pseudocode.*

#### Caller-verified

- Method `random_variable`
  - `x` elements are non-null.
  - `scale` is non-null and non-negative.
- Method `privacy_map`
  - `d_in` is non-null and positive.
  - `scale` is non-null and positive.

### Pseudocode

```
1 class MaxDivergence(TopKMeasure):
2     ONE_SHOT = False
3     RV = ExponentialRV
4
5     @staticmethod
6     def random_variable(shift: FBig, scale: FBig) -> ExponentialRV:
7         return ExponentialRV(shift=shift, scale=scale)
8
9     @staticmethod
10    def privacy_map(d_in: f64, scale: f64, k: usize) -> f64:
11        if d_in < 0:
12            raise ValueError("input distance must be non-negative")
13
14        if scale.is_zero():
15            return f64.INFINITY
16
17        return d_in.inf_div(scale).inf_mul(f64.inf_cast(k))
```

### Postcondition

**Theorem 1.1.** The implementation is consistent with all associated items in the `TopKMeasure` trait.

1. Method `random_variable`: Returns the index of the top element  $z_i$ , where each  $z_i \sim \text{DISTRIBUTION}(\text{shift} = y_i, \text{scale} = \text{scale})$ , and each  $y_i = -x_i$  if `negate`, else  $y_i = x_i$ ,  $k$  times with removal.
2. Method `privacy_map`: For any  $x, x'$  where  $d_{\text{in}} \geq d_{\text{Range}}(x, x')$ , return  $d_{\text{out}} \geq D_{\text{self}}(f(x), f(x'))$ , where  $f(x) = \text{noisy\_top\_k}(x, k = 1, \text{scale} = \text{scale})$ .

**Definition 1.2.** A random variable follows the Exponential distribution if it has density

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-z} \quad (1)$$

where  $z = \frac{x-\mu}{\beta}$ ,  $\mu$  is the shift (location) parameter and  $\beta$  is the scale parameter.

*Proof of valid associated type: `RV`.* The associated type `RV` is defined as `ExponentialRV`, which represents a random variable following the Exponential distribution 1.2. The compiler verifies that `ExponentialRV` implements the `InverseCDF` trait.  $\square$

*Proof of postcondition: `random_variable`.* The preconditions of `exponential_noisy_max` are met, therefore by the postcondition of `exponential_top_k`, the postcondition of `random_variable` is satisfied.  $\square$

*Proof of postcondition: `privacy_map`.* By Theorem 1 of [1],  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{Exponential}}(x)$  satisfies  $\epsilon$ -DP.  $\square$

## References

- [1] Ryan McKenna and Daniel Sheldon. Permute-and-flip: A new mechanism for differentially private selection, 2020.