

fn sample_bernoulli_exp

Michael Shoemate

July 11, 2025

This proof resides in “**contrib**” because it has not completed the vetting process.

Proves soundness of `sample_bernoulli_exp` in `mod.rs` at commit `0be3ab3e6` (outdated¹).

`fn sample_bernoulli_exp` returns a sample from the *Bernoulli*($\exp(-x)$) distribution for some rational, non-negative, finite x . This proof is an adaptation of subsection 5.1 of [CKS20].

Vetting history

- [Pull Request #519](#)

1 Hoare Triple

Precondition

$x \in \mathbb{Q} \wedge x > 0$

Pseudocode

```
1 def sample_bernoulli_exp(x) -> bool:
2     while x >= 1:
3         if sample_bernoulli_exp1(1): #
4             x -= 1
5     else:
6         return False
7     return sample_bernoulli_exp1(x) #
```

Postcondition

For any setting of the input parameters x such that the given preconditions hold, `sample_bernoulli_exp` either returns `Err(e)` due to a lack of system entropy, or `Ok(out)`, where `out` is distributed as *Bernoulli*($\exp(-x)$).

2 Proof

Assume the preconditions are met.

Lemma 2.1. `sample_bernoulli_exp` only returns `Err(e)` when there is a lack of system entropy.

¹See new changes with `git diff 0be3ab3e6..a80fce7 rust/src/traits/samplers/cks20/mod.rs`

Proof. In all invocations of `sample_bernoulli_exp1`, the argument passed satisfies its definition preconditions, by the preconditions on `x` and function logic. Thus, by its definition, `sample_bernoulli_exp1` only returns an error when there is a lack of system entropy. The only source of errors in `sample_bernoulli_exp` is from the invocation of `sample_bernoulli_exp1`. Therefore `sample_bernoulli_exp` only returns `Err(e)` when there is a lack of system entropy. \square

Lemma 2.2. `out` is distributed as $Bernoulli(\exp(-x))$.

Proof. For $0 \leq i \leq \lfloor x \rfloor$, let b_i denote the i^{th} outcome of `sample_bernoulli_exp1` on line 3. By the definition of `sample_bernoulli_exp1`, under the established conditions and preconditions, each B_i is distributed as $Bernoulli(\exp(-1))$. Let c denote the outcome of `sample_bernoulli_exp1` on line 7. Similarly as before, C is distributed $Bernoulli(\exp(-(x - \lfloor x \rfloor)))$.

$$\begin{aligned}
P[\text{out} = \top] &= P[B_1 = B_2 = \dots = B_{\lfloor x \rfloor} = C = \top] && \text{out is only } \top \text{ if } \forall i, B_i = \top \text{ and } C = \top \\
&= \prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor x \rfloor} P[B_i = \top] P[C = \top] && \text{all } B_i \text{ and } C \text{ are independent} \\
&= \exp(-1)^{\lfloor x \rfloor} \exp(\lfloor x \rfloor - x) \\
&= \exp(-x)
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, `out` is distributed as $Bernoulli(\exp(-x))$. \square

Proof. 1 holds by 2.1 and 2.2. \square

References

[CKS20] Clément L. Canonne, Gautam Kamath, and Thomas Steinke. The discrete gaussian for differential privacy. *CoRR*, abs/2004.00010, 2020.