fn conservative_discrete_laplacian_tail_to_alpha

Michael Shoemate

January 4, 2026

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

Proof for `conservative_discrete_laplacian_tail_to_alpha`.

Definition 0.1. Define $Y \sim \mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{Z}}(0, s)$, a random variable following the discrete laplace distribution:

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{Z} \qquad \Pr[X = x] = \frac{e^{1/s} - 1}{e^{1/s} + 1} e^{-|x|/s} \tag{1}$$

Theorem 0.2. Assume $X \sim \mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{Z}}(0, s)$, and $t > 0$.

$$\alpha = P[X > t] = \frac{e^{-t/s}}{e^{-1/s} + 1} \tag{2}$$

Proof.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\alpha &= P[X > t] \\
&= \sum_{x=t+1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{1/s} - 1}{e^{1/s} + 1} e^{-|x|/s} \\
&= \frac{e^{1/s} - 1}{e^{1/s} + 1} \sum_{x=t+1}^{\infty} e^{-x/s} && \text{since } t > 0 \\
&= \frac{e^{1/s} - 1}{e^{1/s} + 1} \frac{e^{(1-(t+1))/s}}{e^{1/s} - 1} && \text{since } \sum_{x=t}^{\infty} p^x = \frac{p^t}{1-p} \text{ if } |p| < 1, \text{ let } p = e^{1/s} \\
&= \frac{e^{-t/s}}{e^{1/s} + 1}
\end{aligned}
$$

$\square$