# impl TopKMeasure for ZeroConcentratedDivergence

## Michael Shoemate

September 18, 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 noisy\_top\_k
  - x elements are non-null.
  - scale is finite and non-negative.
- Method privacy\_map
  - d\_in is non-null and positive.
  - scale is non-null and positive.

#### Pseudocode

```
# ZeroConcentratedDivergence
def noisy_top_k(x: list[TIA], scale: f64, k: usize, negate: bool) -> list[usize]:
    return gumbel_top_k(x, scale, k, negate)

def privacy_map(d_in: f64, scale: f64) -> f64:
    return d_in.inf_div(scale).inf_powi(ibig(2)).inf_div(8.0)
```

#### Postcondition

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

- 1. Method noisy\_top\_k:
  - 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.
  - Errors are data-independent, except for exhaustion of entropy.
- 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  $f(x) = \text{noisy\_top\_k}(x = x, k = 1, \text{scale} = \text{scale})$ .

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

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

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

Proof of postcondition: noisy\_top\_k. The preconditions of gumbel\_noisy\_max are met, therefore by the postcondition of gumbel\_top\_k, the postcondition of noisy\_top\_k is satisfied.

Proof of postcondition: privacy\_map. By Lemma 4.2 of [2],  $\mathcal{M}_{Gumbel}^k(x)$  is equal in distribution to the peeling exponential mechanism, which is the k-fold composition of the exponential mechanism. Proposition 2 of [1] shows that the exponential mechanism satisfies the zCDP privacy guarantee.

## References

- [1] Jinshuo Dong, David Durfee, and Ryan Rogers. Optimal differential privacy composition for exponential mechanisms and the cost of adaptivity. *CoRR*, abs/1909.13830, 2019.
- [2] David Durfee and Ryan Rogers. Practical differentially private top-k selection with pay-what-you-get composition. CoRR, abs/1905.04273, 2019.