impl TopKMeasure for MaxDivergence

Tudor Cebere

Michael Shoemate

September 27, 2025

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

This document proves soundness of TopKMeasure for MaxDivergence in mod.rs at commit e62b0aa2 (outdated1).

1 Hoare Triple

Precondition

Compiler-verified

- Associated Const REPLACEMENT = false
- Method privacy_map Types consistent with pseudocode.

Caller-verified

- Method privacy_map
 - d_in is non-null and positive.
 - scale is non-null and positive.

Pseudocode

```
# MaxDivergence
REPLACEMENT = False

def privacy_map(d_in: f64, scale: f64) -> f64:
    return d_in.inf_div(scale)
```

Postcondition

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

1. 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 $f(x) = \text{noisy_top_k}(x = x, k = 1, \text{scale} = \text{scale}, \text{replacement} = \text{Self} :: \text{REPLACEMENT})$.

Proof. Since Self::REPLACEMENT is false, then by the postcondition of noisy_top_k, noisy_top_k returns a sample from \mathcal{M}_{PF} . In the case that scores are not monotonic, by [1] Theorem 1, \mathcal{M}_{PF} satisfies ϵ -DP, because the range distance is equal to $2 \cdot \Delta$. Otherwise in the case that scores are monotonic, by [1] Remark 1, \mathcal{M}_{PF} satisfies ϵ /2-DP, but the range distance is equal to Δ , thus satisfying ϵ -DP.

¹See new changes with git diff e62b0aa2..adaba8f5 rust/src/measurements/noisy_top_k/mod.rs

References

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