# Privacy

### 1 Privacy Loss

**Definition 1.1.** Let Y and Z be two random variables. The privacy loss random variables  $\mathcal{L}_{Y||Z}$  is distributed by drawing t ~ Law(Y), and outputting log  $\left(\frac{\mathbb{P}[Y=t]}{\mathbb{P}[Z=t]}\right)$ . If the support of Y and Z are not equal, then the privacy loss random variable is undefined.

2 
$$\varepsilon - \delta$$
 DP

#### 2.1 4 ways to see $\delta$

**Proposition 2.1.** Let P and Q be two probability distributions on  $\mathcal{Y}$  such that the privacy loss distribution PrivLoss(P||Q) is well-defined. Fix  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  and define

$$\delta := \sup_{S \subset \mathcal{Y}} P(S) - e^{\varepsilon} Q(S). \tag{2.1}$$

Then

$$\begin{split} \delta &= \underset{Z \sim \operatorname{PrivLoss}(P||Q)}{\mathbb{P}} [Z > \varepsilon] - e^{\varepsilon} \cdot \underset{Z' \sim \operatorname{PrivLoss}(Q||P)}{\mathbb{P}} [-Z' > \varepsilon] \\ &= \underset{Z \sim \operatorname{PrivLoss}(P||Q)}{\mathbb{E}} [\max \left\{ 0, 1 - \exp(\varepsilon - Z \right\}] \\ &= \int_{\varepsilon}^{\infty} e^{\varepsilon - z} \underset{Z \sim \operatorname{PrivLoss}(P||Q)}{\mathbb{P}} [Z > z] \, \mathrm{d}z \\ &\leq \underset{Z \sim \operatorname{PrivLoss}(P||Q)}{\mathbb{P}} [Z > \varepsilon]. \end{split}$$

### 2.2 Moment difference bound

Let X and Y be a random variable supported on  $[-\Delta, \Delta]$  satisfying  $\mathbb{P}[X \in S] \leq e^{\varepsilon} \mathbb{P}[Y \in S] + \delta$  for all measurable S and vice versa. Then

$$\mathbb{E}[X] - \mathbb{E}[Y] \le (e^{\varepsilon} - 1) \,\mathbb{E}[|Y|] + 2\delta\Delta \tag{2.2}$$

### 3 zCDP

**Definition 3.1.** A randomised mechanism  $M: \mathcal{X}^n \to \mathcal{Y}$  is  $(\xi, \rho)$ -zero-concentrated differentially private if, for all  $x, x' \in \mathcal{X}^n$  differing on a single entry and all  $\alpha \in (1, \infty)$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{(\alpha-1)Z}] \le e^{(\alpha-1)(\xi+\rho\alpha)},\tag{3.1}$$

where Z = PrivLoss(M(x)||M(x')) is the privacy loss random variable.

#### 3.1 Key properties

- 1. Pure  $\varepsilon$ -DP imples  $\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2$ -zCDP
- 2. The composition of k independent  $\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2$ -zCDP algorithms satisfies  $\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2$ k-zCDP.
- 3.  $\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2 k$ -zCDP implies approximate  $(\varepsilon', \delta)$ -DP with  $\delta \in (0, 1)$  arbitrary and  $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon \cdot \sqrt{2k \log(1/\delta)} + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2 k$ .

# 4 Approximate Rényi Differential Privacy

Rényi differential privacy was introduced by Minorov and was motivated by analyzing privacy amplification by subsampling interleaved with composition, which arises in differentially private deep learning

- Thomas Steinke

**Defintion (RDP).** An algorithm M is said to be  $(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ -RDP with  $\lambda \geq 1$  and  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ , if for any adjacent inputs x, x'

$$D_{\lambda}(M(x)||M(x')) := \frac{1}{\lambda - 1} \log \mathbb{E}_{Y \leftarrow M(x)} \left[ \left( \frac{\mathbb{P}[M(x) = Y]}{\mathbb{P}[M(x') = Y]} \right)^{\lambda - 1} \right] \le \varepsilon \tag{4.1}$$

**Tip:** The  $\varepsilon$  should be thought of as a function  $\varepsilon(\lambda)$ , rather than a single number.

# **Properties**

Let P, Q be probability distributions over  $\mathcal{Y}$  with a common sigma-algebra such that P is absolutely continuous with respect to Q.

1. Postprocessing (a.k.a. data processing inequality) & non-negativity: Let  $f: \mathcal{Y} \to \mathcal{Z}$  be a measurable function. Let f(P) denote the distribution on  $\mathcal{Z}$  obtained by applying f to a sample from P; define f(Q) similarly. Then

$$0 \le D_{\alpha}(f(P)||f(Q)) \le D_{\alpha}(P||Q)$$
 for all  $\alpha \in [1, \infty]$ .

2. Composition: If  $P = P' \times P''$  and  $Q = Q' \times Q''$  are product distributions, then

$$D_{\alpha}(P||Q) = D_{\alpha}(P'||Q') + D_{\alpha}(P''||Q'') \quad \text{for all } \alpha \in [1, \infty].$$

More generally, suppose P and Q are distributions on  $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Y}' \times \mathcal{Y}''$ . Let P' and Q' be the marginal distributions on  $\mathcal{Y}'$  induced by P and Q respectively. For  $y' \in \mathcal{Y}'$ , let  $P''_{y'}$  and  $Q''_{y'}$  be the conditional distributions on  $\mathcal{Y}''$  induced by P and Q respectively. That is, we can generate a sample  $Y = (Y', Y'') \leftarrow P$  by first sampling  $Y' \leftarrow P'$  and then sampling  $Y'' \leftarrow P''_{Y'}$ , and similarly for Q. Then

$$D_{\alpha}(P\|Q) \leq D_{\alpha}(P'\|Q') + \sup_{y' \in \mathcal{Y}'} D_{\alpha}(P''_{y'}\|Q''_{y'}) \quad \text{for all } \alpha \in [1, \infty].$$

3. Monotonicity: For all  $1 \le \alpha \le \alpha' \le \infty$ ,

$$D_{\alpha}(P||Q) < D_{\alpha'}(P||Q).$$

4. Gaussian divergence: For all  $\mu, \mu' \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $\sigma > 0$  and all  $\alpha \in [1, \infty)$ ,

$$D_{\alpha}(\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) || \mathcal{N}(\mu', \sigma^2)) = \alpha \cdot \frac{(\mu - \mu')^2}{2\sigma^2}.$$

5. Pure DP to Concentrated DP: For all  $\alpha \in [1, \infty)$ ,

$$D_{\alpha}(P||Q) \leq \frac{\alpha}{8} \cdot (D_{\infty}(P||Q) + D_{\infty}(Q||P))^{2}.$$

6. Quasi-convexity: Let P' and Q' be probability distributions over  $\mathcal{Y}$  such that P' is absolutely continuous with respect to Q'. For  $s \in [0,1]$ , let  $(1-s) \cdot P + s \cdot P'$  denote the convex combination of the distributions P and P' with weighting s. For all  $\alpha \in (1,\infty)$  and all  $s \in [0,1]$ ,

$$D_{\alpha} ((1-s) \cdot P + s \cdot P' \parallel (1-s) \cdot Q + s \cdot Q')$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \log ((1-s) \cdot \exp ((\alpha - 1)D_{\alpha}(P \parallel Q)) + s \cdot \exp ((\alpha - 1)D_{\alpha}(P' \parallel Q')))$$

$$\leq \max \{ D_{\alpha}(P \parallel Q), D_{\alpha}(P' \parallel Q') \},$$

and

$$D_1((1-s) \cdot P + s \cdot P' \parallel (1-s) \cdot Q + s \cdot Q') \le (1-s) \cdot D_1(P \parallel Q) + s \cdot D_1(P' \parallel Q').$$

7. Triangle-like inequality (a.k.a. group privacy): Let R be a distribution on  $\mathcal{Y}$  and assume that Q is absolutely continuous with respect to R. For all  $1 < \alpha < \alpha' < \infty$ ,

$$D_{\alpha}(P\|R) \leq \frac{\alpha'}{\alpha' - 1} \cdot D_{\alpha' \cdot \frac{\alpha' - 1}{\alpha' - \alpha}}(P\|Q) + D_{\alpha'}(Q\|R).$$

In particular, if  $D_{\alpha}(P||Q) \leq \rho_1 \cdot \alpha$  and  $D_{\alpha}(Q||R) \leq \rho_2 \cdot \alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in (1, \infty)$ , then

$$D_{\alpha}(P||R) \le (\sqrt{\rho_1} + \sqrt{\rho_2})^2 \cdot \alpha$$
 for all  $\alpha \in (1, \infty)$ .

8. Conversion to approximate DP: For all measurable  $S \subset \mathcal{Y}$ , all  $\alpha \in (1, \infty)$ , and all  $\tilde{\varepsilon} \geq D_{\alpha}(P||Q)$ ,

$$P(S) \le e^{\tilde{\varepsilon}} \cdot Q(S) + e^{-(\alpha - 1)(\tilde{\varepsilon} - D_{\alpha}(P||Q))} \cdot \frac{1}{\alpha} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\alpha} \right)^{\alpha - 1}$$
  
$$\le e^{\tilde{\varepsilon}} \cdot Q(S) + e^{-(\alpha - 1)(\tilde{\varepsilon} - D_{\alpha}(P||Q))}.$$

**Definition 4.1 (Approximate RDP).** A randomized algorithm  $M: \mathcal{X}^n \to \mathcal{Y}$  is  $\delta$ -approximately  $(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ -Rényi differentially private if, for all neighboring pairs of inputs  $x, x' \in \mathcal{X}^n$ ,

$$D_{\lambda}^{\delta}(M(x)||M(x')) \le \varepsilon.$$

- 4.1 Properties
  - 1.  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ -DP is equivalent to  $\delta$ -approximate  $(\infty, \delta)$ -RDP.
  - 2.  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ -DP implies  $\delta$ -approximate  $(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2\delta)$ -RDP for all  $\lambda \in (1, \infty)$ .
  - 3.  $\delta$ -approximate  $(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ -RDP implies  $(\hat{\varepsilon}, \hat{\delta})$ -DP for

$$\hat{\delta} = \delta + \frac{\exp((\lambda - 1)(\hat{\varepsilon} - \varepsilon))}{\lambda} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda}\right)^{\lambda - 1}.$$
 (4.2)

- 4.  $\delta$ -approximate  $(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ -RDP is closed under postprocessing.
- 5. If  $M_1$  is  $\delta_1$ -approximately  $(\lambda, \varepsilon_1)$ -RDP and  $M_2$  is  $\delta_2$ -approximately  $(\lambda, \varepsilon_2)$ -RDP, then their composition is  $(\delta_1 + \delta_2)$ -approximately  $(\lambda, \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2)$ -RDP.

# 5 Composition

#### 5.1 Advanced composition $(\varepsilon, \delta)$

**Theorem 5.1.** If each mechanism  $m_i$  is in a k-fold adaptive composition  $m_1, \ldots, m_k$  satisfies  $\varepsilon$ -differential privacy, then for any  $\delta' \geq 0$ , the entire k-fold adaptive composition satisfies  $(\varepsilon', \delta')$ -differential privacy, where

$$\varepsilon' = \varepsilon \sqrt{2k \log(1/\delta')} + k\varepsilon(e^{\varepsilon} - 1) \tag{5.1}$$

**Theorem 5.2.** For  $j \in [k]$ , let  $M_j \in \mathcal{X}^n \times \mathcal{Y}_{i-1} \to \mathcal{Y}_i$  be randomized algorithms. Suppose  $M_j$  is  $(\varepsilon_j, \delta_j)$ -DP for each  $j \in [k]$ . For  $j \in [k]$ , inductively define  $M_{1...j} : \mathcal{X}^n \to \mathcal{Y}_j$  by  $M_{1...j}(x) = M_j(x, M_{1...(j-1)}(x))$ , where each algorithm is run independently and  $M_{1...0} = y$  for some fixed  $y_0 \in \mathcal{Y}_0$ . Then  $M_{1...k}$  is  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ -DP for any  $\delta > \sum_{j=1}^k \delta_j$  with

$$\varepsilon = \min \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{k} \varepsilon_j, \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \varepsilon_j^2 + \sqrt{2 \log(1/\delta') \sum_{k=1}^{k} \varepsilon_j^2} \right\}$$
 (5.2)

# 6 Joint Differential Privacy

**Definition 6.1.** For  $\varepsilon, \delta \geq 0$ , a randomized algorithm  $\mathcal{M}: \mathbb{N}^{\mathcal{X}} \to \mathcal{Y}^N$  is  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ -joint differentially private if for every possible pair of  $z, z' \in \mathcal{X}$ , for every  $i \in [N]$ , and for every subset of possible outputs  $E \subseteq \mathcal{Y}^{N-1}$ , we have

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{M}}[\mathcal{M}(z \cup D_{-z})_{-i} \in E] \le e^{\varepsilon} \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{M}}[\mathcal{M}(z' \cup D_{-z})_{-i} \in E] + \delta \tag{6.1}$$

where  $\mathcal{M}_{-i}$  denotes the output of  $\mathcal{M}$  that excludes the *i*th dimension.

### 7 Lower Bound Tools

#### 7.1 Query moment w.r.t binary data

**Theorem 7.1 (Correlation–Variance Dichotomy).** Let  $f: \{0,1\}^d \to [0,1]$  be an arbitrary function. Let  $P \in [0,1]$  be uniformly random and, conditioned on P, let  $X_1, X_2, \ldots X_n$  be independent with  $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = P$  for each  $i \in [n]$ . Then

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{X,P}\left[\left(f(X) - P\right) \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n} (X_i - P)\right]}_{\text{else) total correlation}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left[\mathbb{E}\left[f(X) - \overline{X}\right]^2\right]}_{P} \ge \frac{1}{12} \tag{7.1}$$

### 8 Decomposition

# 8.1 Basic decomposition

Let P and Q be probability distributions over  $\mathcal{Y}$ . Fix  $\varepsilon, \delta \geq 0$ . Suppose that, for all measurable  $S \subset \mathcal{Y}$ , we have  $P(S) \leq e^{\varepsilon}Q(S) + \delta$  and vice versa.

Then there exist  $\delta' \in [0, \delta]$  and distributions P', Q', P'' and Q'' over  $\mathcal{Y}$  such that the following three properties are all satisfied.

1. We can express P and Q as convex combinations:

$$P = (1 - \delta')P' + \delta'P''$$
$$Q = (1 - \delta')Q' + \delta'Q''$$

- 2. Second, for all measurable  $S \subset \mathcal{Y}$ , we have  $e^{-\varepsilon}P'(S) \leq Q'(S) \leq e^{\varepsilon}P'(S)$
- 3. There exists measurable  $S, T \subset \mathcal{Y}$  such that  $P''(S) = 1, Q''(T) = 1, \forall S' \subset S \ P(S') \ge Q(S')$ , and  $\forall T' \subset T \ Q(T') \ge P(T')$

**Corollary 8.1.** Let P and Q be probability distribution over  $\mathcal{Y}$ . Fix  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\delta$ . Suppose that for all measurable  $S \subset \mathcal{Y}$ , we have  $P(S) \leq e^{\varepsilon}Q(S) + \delta$  and  $Q(S) \leq e^{\varepsilon}P(S) + \delta$ . Then there exist distributions A, B, P'', and Q'' over  $\mathcal{Y}$  such that

$$P = (1 - \delta) \frac{e^{\varepsilon}}{e^{\varepsilon} + 1} A + (1 - \delta) \frac{1}{e^{\varepsilon} + 1} B + \delta P'',$$

$$Q = (1 - \delta) \frac{e^{\varepsilon}}{e^{\varepsilon} + 1} B + (1 - \delta) \frac{1}{e^{\varepsilon} + 1} A + \delta Q''$$

**Interpretation:** All  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$  DP distributions can be represented as a postprocessing of the  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$  randomized response with the postprocessing F such that  $F(0, \bot) = A, F(1, \bot) = B, F(0, \top) = P''$  and  $F(1, \top) = Q''$  subsubsectionBayesian version

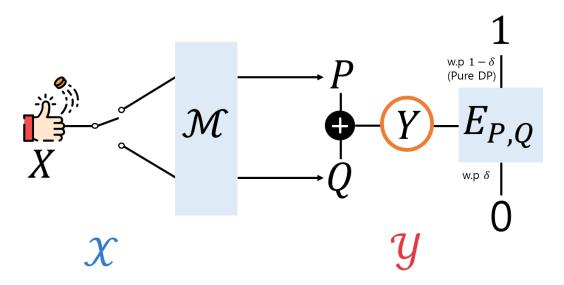


Figure 1: Visualization of the Bayesian version decomposition

#### Question

Suppose we observe a sample from either P or Q and we have a prior on these two possibilities, what is the posterior distribution of possibilities? We need to account for the event with  $\delta$  where things "fail" arbitrarily.

Let P and Q be probability distributions over  $\mathcal{Y}$ . Fix  $\varepsilon, \delta \geq 0$ . Suppose that, for all measurable  $S \subset \mathcal{Y}$ , we have  $P(S) \leq e^{\varepsilon}Q(S) + \delta$  and vice versa.

Then there exists a randomized function  $E_{P,Q}: \mathcal{Y} \to \{0,1\}$  with the following properties:

1. Fix  $p \in [0,1]$  and suppose  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ . If X=1, sample  $Y \sim P$  else  $Y \sim Q$ . Then for all  $Y \in \mathcal{Y}$ , we have

$$\mathbb{P}_{\substack{X \sim \text{Bernoulli(p)} \\ Y \sim XP + (1-X)Q}} [X = 1 \land E_{P,Q}(Y) = 1 | Y = y] \le \frac{p}{p + (1-p)e^{-\varepsilon}}$$

2. Under each hypothesis  $Y \sim P$  and  $Y \sim Q$ , the expected value  $E_{P,Q}(Y)$  is equal or greater than  $1 - \delta$ .