

# Privacy

## 1 Privacy Loss

**Definition.** Let  $Y$  and  $Z$  be two random variables. The privacy loss random variables  $\mathcal{L}_{Y||Z}$  is distributed by drawing  $t \sim \text{Law}(Y)$ , 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.** Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be two probability distributions on  $\mathcal{Y}$  such that the privacy loss distribution  $\text{PrivLoss}(P||Q)$  is well-defined. Fix  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  and define

$$\delta := \sup_{S \subset \mathcal{Y}} P(S) - e^\varepsilon Q(S). \quad (.1)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \delta &= \mathbb{P}_{Z \sim \text{PrivLoss}(P||Q)}[Z > \varepsilon] - e^\varepsilon \cdot \mathbb{P}_{Z' \sim \text{PrivLoss}(Q||P)}[-Z' > \varepsilon] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{Z \sim \text{PrivLoss}(P||Q)}[\max\{0, 1 - \exp(\varepsilon - Z)\}] \\ &= \int_{\varepsilon}^{\infty} e^{\varepsilon - z} \mathbb{P}_{Z \sim \text{PrivLoss}(P||Q)}[Z > z] dz \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}_{Z \sim \text{PrivLoss}(P||Q)}[Z > \varepsilon]. \end{aligned}$$

### 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

$$\mathbb{E}[X] - \mathbb{E}[Y] \leq (e^\varepsilon - 1) \mathbb{E}[|Y|] + 2\delta\Delta \quad (.2)$$

## 3 zCDP

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

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{(\alpha-1)Z}] \leq e^{(\alpha-1)(\xi+\rho\alpha)}, \quad (.3)$$

where  $Z = \text{PrivLoss}(M(x)||M(x'))$  is the privacy loss random variable.

### 3.1 Key properties

1. Pure  $\varepsilon$ -DP implies  $\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2$ -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

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

$$D_\lambda(M(x) \| M(x')) := \frac{1}{\lambda - 1} \log_{Y \leftarrow M(x)} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \frac{\mathbb{P}[M(x) = Y]}{\mathbb{P}[M(x') = Y]} \right)^{\lambda - 1} \right] \leq \varepsilon \quad (.4)$$

**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  $f : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  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

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

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  $1 \leq \alpha \leq \alpha' \leq \infty$ ,

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

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  $s \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & D_\alpha((1-s) \cdot P + s \cdot P' \parallel (1-s) \cdot Q + s \cdot Q') \\ & \leq \frac{1}{\alpha-1} \log((1-s) \cdot \exp((\alpha-1)D_\alpha(P \parallel Q)) + s \cdot \exp((\alpha-1)D_\alpha(P' \parallel Q'))) \\ & \leq \max\{D_\alpha(P \parallel Q), D_\alpha(P' \parallel Q')\}, \end{aligned}$$

and

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

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  $1 < \alpha < \alpha' < \infty$ ,

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

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

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} P(S) & \leq e^{\tilde{\varepsilon}} \cdot Q(S) + e^{-(\alpha-1)(\tilde{\varepsilon}-D_\alpha(P \parallel Q))} \cdot \frac{1}{\alpha} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\alpha}\right)^{\alpha-1} \\ & \leq e^{\tilde{\varepsilon}} \cdot Q(S) + e^{-(\alpha-1)(\tilde{\varepsilon}-D_\alpha(P \parallel Q))}. \end{aligned}$$

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

$$D_\lambda^\delta(M(x) \parallel M(x')) \leq \varepsilon.$$

#### 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

$$\hat{\delta} = \delta + \frac{\exp((\lambda-1)(\hat{\varepsilon}-\varepsilon))}{\lambda} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda}\right)^{\lambda-1}. \quad (.5)$$

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

$$\varepsilon' = \varepsilon \sqrt{2k \log(1/\delta')} + k\varepsilon(e^\varepsilon - 1) \quad (.6)$$

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

$$\varepsilon = \min \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^k \varepsilon_j, \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^k \varepsilon_j^2 + \sqrt{2 \log(1/\delta') \sum_{j=1}^k \varepsilon_j^2} \right\} \quad (.7)$$

## 6 Joint Differential Privacy

**Definition.** For  $\varepsilon, \delta \geq 0$ , a randomized algorithm  $\mathcal{M} : \mathbb{N}^{\mathcal{X}} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}^N$  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

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{M}}[\mathcal{M}(z \cup D_{-z})_{-i} \in E] \leq e^\varepsilon \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{M}}[\mathcal{M}(z' \cup D_{-z})_{-i} \in E] + \delta \quad (.8)$$

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

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

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{X, P} \left[ (f(X) - P) \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - P) \right]}_{\text{일종의 total correlation}} + \mathbb{E}_P \left[ \mathbb{E}_X [f(X) - \bar{X}]^2 \right] \geq \frac{1}{12} \quad (.9)$$

## 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:

$$\begin{aligned} P &= (1 - \delta')P' + \delta'P'' \\ Q &= (1 - \delta')Q' + \delta'Q'' \end{aligned}$$

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  $P''(S) = 1, Q''(T) = 1, \forall S' \subset S P(S') \geq Q(S')$ , and  $\forall T' \subset T Q(T') \geq P(T')$

**Corollary.** 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  $F(0, \perp) = A, F(1, \perp) = B, F(0, \top) = P''$  and  $F(1, \top) = Q''$  subsubsectionBayesian version

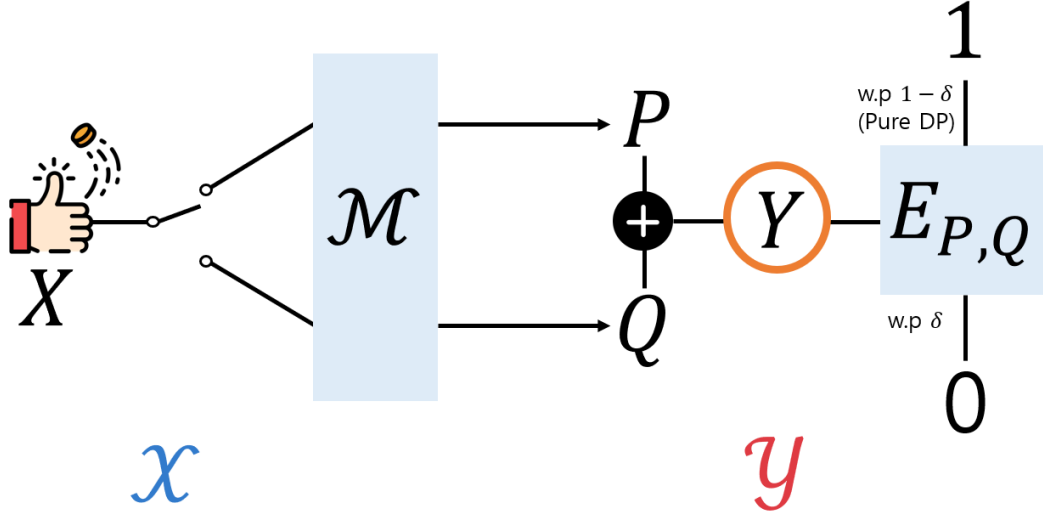


Figure 1: Visualization of the Bayesian version decomposition

#### 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  $E_{P,Q} : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  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

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

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