

A Note on Privacy Composition and Amplification

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This is a note for the paper "[Privacy Amplification by iteration](#)"

1 Introduction

1.1 Optimization Notion

Convex Loss Minimization

\mathcal{X} : domain of data sets

\mathcal{P} : a distribution over \mathcal{X}

$S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$: a data set drawn i.i.d. from \mathcal{P}

\mathcal{K} : a convex set denoting the space of all models, $\mathcal{K} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$f : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a loss function.

excess population loss of solution: $\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{P}}[f(w, x)] - \min_{v \in \mathcal{K}} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{P}}[f(v, x)]$

1.2 Measure Notion

Definition 1.1. Measure Absolutely Continuous

We say a distribution μ is absolutely continuous with respect to ν if $\mu(A) = 0$ whenever $\nu(A) = 0$ for all measurable sets A . We will denote this by $\mu \ll \nu$.

Given two distributions μ and ν on a Banach space $(\mathcal{Z}, \|\cdot\|)$, one can define several notions of distance between them.

Definition 1.2. Rényi Divergence

Let $1 < \alpha < \infty$ and μ, ν be measures with $\mu \ll \nu$. The Rényi divergence of order α between μ and ν is defined as

$$D_\alpha(u||v) = \frac{1}{\alpha-1} \ln \int (\frac{\mu(z)}{\nu(z)})^\alpha \nu(z) dz$$

It has the following properties:

- It's **independent of norm**.

- **Additivity** : $D_\alpha(\mu \times \mu' || \nu \times \nu') = D_\alpha(\mu || \nu) + D_\alpha(\mu' || \nu')$

Proof: Write p.d.f. for cartesian product of measures directly and it's easy to get the result.

- **Post-Processing** : For any(deterministic) function f , $D_\alpha(f(\mu) || f(\nu)) \leq D_\alpha(\mu || \nu)$

Proof: Use inversion formula and Cachy inequalities?

Definition 1.3. ∞ -Wasserstein Distance

The ∞ -Wasserstein distance between distributions μ and ν on a Banach space $(\mathcal{Z}, \|\cdot\|)$ is defined as

$$W_\infty(\mu, \nu) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\mu, \nu)} \text{ess sup}_{(x, y) \sim \gamma} \|x - y\|$$

1.3 Privacy Notion

At a semantic level, we can define (ϵ, δ) differential privacy with regard to neighboring datasets. A common choice if $\epsilon = 0.1, \delta = 1/n^{w(1)}$, where n refers to the size of the dataset. There are times when the traditional approach fails. (PAE+17, PSM+18)

Starting with concentrated Differential Privacy, there has been definitions that allow more fine-grained control of the privacy loss random variable, such as **zCDP**, **Moments Accountant** and **Rényi differential privacy**.

Definition 1.4. Rényi Differential Privacy (RDP)

For $1 \leq \alpha \leq \infty$ and $\epsilon \geq 0$, a randomized algorithm \mathcal{A} is (α, ϵ) -Rényi differentially private if, for all neighboring data sets S and S'

$$D_\alpha(A(S) || A(S')) \leq \epsilon$$

Definition 1.5. Shifted Rényi Divergence

Let μ and ν be distributions defined on a Banach space $(\mathcal{Z}, \|\cdot\|)$. For parameters $z > 0$ and $\alpha \geq 1$, the z -shifted Rényi divergence between μ and ν is defined as

$$D_\alpha^{(z)}(\mu || \nu) = \inf_{\nu' : W_\infty(\mu, \mu') \leq z} D_\alpha(\mu || \nu)$$

It has the following properties:

- Monotonicity: for $0 \leq z \leq z'$, $D_\alpha^{(z)}(\mu || \nu) \geq D_\alpha^{(z')}(\mu || \nu)$
- Shifting: $D_\alpha^{(||x||)}(\mu || \nu) \leq D_\alpha(\mu * x || \nu)$

Definition 1.6. $(R_\alpha(\zeta, a))$

$$R_\alpha(\zeta, a) = \sup_{x: \|x\| \leq a} D_\alpha(\zeta * x || \zeta)$$

Remark:

- $D_\alpha(\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 \mathbb{I}_d) || \mathcal{N}(x, \sigma^2 \mathbb{I}_d)) = \alpha \|x\|_2^2 / 2\sigma^2 \Rightarrow R_\alpha(\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 \mathbb{I}_d), x) = \alpha a^2 / 2\sigma^2$

Simply write out the p.d.f. then do integration

- It measures how well noise distribution ζ hides changes in our norm $\|\cdot\|$

Definition 1.7. [Mir17]. For $1 \leq a \leq \infty$ and $\epsilon \geq 0$, a randomized algorithm \mathcal{A} is (α, ϵ) -Rényi differentially private, or (α, ϵ) -RDP is for all neighboring data sets S and S' we have

$$D_\alpha(A(S) || A(S')) \leq \epsilon$$

Lemma 1.1. Relating RDP and DP

If \mathcal{A} satisfies (α, ϵ) -Rényi differential privacy, then for all $\delta \in (0, 1)$, it also satisfies $(\epsilon + \frac{\ln(1/\delta)}{\alpha-1}, \delta)$ -differential privacy. Moreover, pure $(\epsilon, 0)$ -differential privacy coincides with (∞, ϵ) -RDP.

Proof: Needs to be supplemented

2 Privacy composition

It enables modular design and analysis and controls the total privacy budget of the combination of simpler building blocks.

Naïve Composition Theorems for DP

Advanced Composition Theorems for DP

An Example(Noisy SGD)

This section needs to be elaborated. Can read on the blog by Rishav Chourasia.

Remark:

- All existing proofs of advanced composition theorems assume that **all intermediate outputs** are revealed, whether the composite mechanism requires it or not.

Lemma 2.1. A naive composition rule for RDP

If $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_k$ are randomized algorithms satisfying, respectively, $(\alpha, \epsilon_1) - RDP, \dots, (\alpha, \epsilon_k) - RDP$, then their composition defined as $(\mathcal{A}_1(S), \dots, \mathcal{A}_k(S))$ is $(\alpha, \epsilon_1 + \dots + \epsilon_k) - RDP$. Moreover, the i 'th algorithm can be chosen on the basis of the outputs of algorithms $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_{i-1}$

Proof: Simple calculation.

Definition 2.1. Contractive function

Proposition 2.2. For **convex** and β -**smooth** functions, gradient descent function ψ is contractive when $\eta \leq 2/\beta$

$$\psi(w) = w - \eta \nabla_w f(w)$$

Definition 2.2. Contractive Noisy Iteration(CNI)

Needs to be elaborated

3 Privacy amplification

It bounds the privacy budget—for select mechanisms—of a combination to be less than the privacy budget of its parts.

3.1 Amplification by sampling

This is the only systematically studied instance of privacy amplification.

3.2 Amplification by iteration

Lemma 3.1. Shift-Reduction Lemma