

## Lecture 18: Differential Privacy (contd.)

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### 1 Recap

What is the likelihood that if  $x$  gives  $O$  output,  $y$  gives  $O$  output

$$\ln \left( \frac{\Pr(M(x) = O)}{\Pr(M(y) = O)} \right) \leq \epsilon$$

The LHS of the above inequality is termed as *Privacy Loss*.

The above condition holds for  $\epsilon$  differential privacy.

#### 1.1 Random Mechanism - 1

Toss a coin

- If H: respond  $x_i$
- If T: toss coin again
  - If H: respond 1
  - If T: respond 0

$$x = (x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n)$$

$$y = (\tilde{x}_1, \dots, \tilde{x}_i, \dots, \tilde{x}_n)$$

where,  $x_i, \tilde{x}_i \in \{0, 1\}$

$$\ln \left( \frac{\Pr(\tilde{x}_i=1 \mid x_i=1)}{\Pr(\tilde{x}_i=1 \mid x_i=0)} \right) = \ln \left( \frac{3/4}{1/4} \right) = \ln 3 \quad \leftarrow \text{(High Privacy Loss)}$$

## 1.2 Random Mechanism - 2

$$\tilde{x}_i = \begin{cases} x_i & \text{with probability } \left(\frac{e^\epsilon}{e^\epsilon + 1}\right) \\ \bar{x}_i & \text{with probability } \left(\frac{1}{e^\epsilon + 1}\right) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Privacy Loss} &= \ln \left( \frac{\Pr(\tilde{x}_i=1 | x_i=1)}{\Pr(\tilde{x}_i=1 | x_i=0)} \right) \\ &= \ln \left( \left( \frac{e^\epsilon}{e^\epsilon + 1} \right) / \left( \frac{1}{e^\epsilon + 1} \right) \right) \\ &= \ln(e^\epsilon) \\ &= \epsilon \leftarrow \text{(Better Mechanism)} \end{aligned}$$

$\epsilon = 0$  implies complete randomness

## 2 General Mechanism

- Add noise to the answer such that,
  - Each answer doesn't leak too much info about the database
  - Noisy answer is close to the original answer
- Noise is added through the Laplace distribution which is similar to normal distribution. Primary difference is that Laplace distribution has a sharper peak.
- Laplacian mechanism works for any function with a real number as an output

$$x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$y = (x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1})$$

where,  $x_i \in \{0, 1\}$

$$\text{Query is mean query i.e. } \mu_x = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

Output will be  $\mu_x + \text{noise}$

$\text{noise} = \text{Lap}\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon n}\right)$ , with  $\text{mean} = 0$ , and,  $\text{variance} = \frac{1}{\epsilon n}$

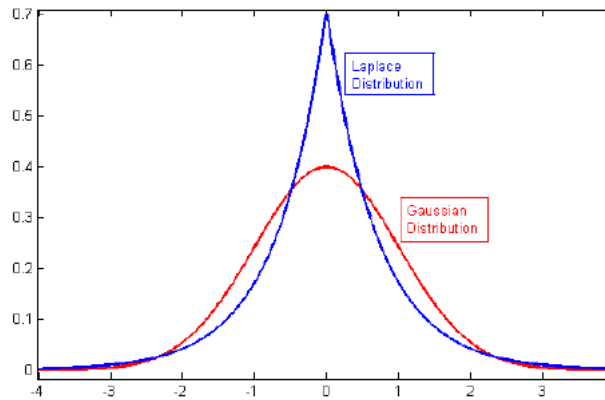


Figure 1: Laplace and Gaussian Distributions

$$f(x|\mu, b) = \frac{1}{2b} e^{-\frac{|x-\mu|}{b}}$$

where,

$\mu$  : mean

$b$  : variance

x, y have different dimensions  
 So, we will use a new representation

$$x = (1's, 0's)$$

$$y = (1's, 0's)$$

$$x = (n-k, k) \text{ --- } k \in [0, n]$$

There are four possibilities for y

$$y = (n-k-1, k)$$

$$= (n-k+1, k)$$

$$= (n-k, k-1)$$

$$= (n-k, k+1)$$

## 2.1 Calculating privacy loss when $x = (n-k, k)$ and $y = (n-k+1, k)$

$$PrivacyLoss = \ln \left( \frac{Pr(M(x)=z \mid x=(n-k,k))}{Pr(M(y)=z \mid y=(n-k+1,k))} \right)$$

$$\text{Output, } M(x) = z = \mu_x + noise$$

$$\implies noise = z - \mu_x$$

$$\text{Noise is } Lap\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon n}\right), \text{ thus, } f(x|\mu, b) = \frac{\epsilon n}{2} e^{-|x-\mu|\epsilon n}$$

$$\implies \text{Privacy Loss} = \ln \left( \frac{\frac{\epsilon n}{2} e^{-|z-\mu_x|\epsilon n}}{\frac{\epsilon n}{2} e^{-|z-\mu_y|\epsilon n}} \right)$$

$$= \ln e^{\epsilon n(|z-\mu_y| - |z-\mu_x|)}$$

$$\leq \ln e^{\epsilon n|\mu_x - \mu_y|}$$

$$\leq \epsilon n|\mu_x - \mu_y|$$

$$\leq \epsilon$$

$$\text{Since, } \mu_y = \frac{n\mu_x + 1}{n+1} \leftarrow \text{(this will change according to which y we are selecting)}$$

$$\implies |\mu_x - \mu_y| \leq \frac{1}{n+1}$$

Thus,

$\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  : high privacy, low utility

$\epsilon \rightarrow \infty$  : low privacy, high utility

## 2.2 Risk (Error)

$$Risk = \mathbb{E}(\text{true answer} - \text{noisy answer})^2$$

We know that, noisy answer = true answer + noise

$$\implies Risk = \mathbb{E}(\text{noise})^2$$

$$= Var\left(Lap\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon n}\right)\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\epsilon^2 n^2} \quad \left(\epsilon < \frac{1}{n}\right)$$

## 3 Query output is not a real no.

When query output is a real no., we use *Laplace Mechanism*.

What if it's not a real no.?

$$f : Z_+^{|X|} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k \quad (\text{k dimensional output})$$

$$M(x) = f(x) + (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)$$

We add Laplace noise for each dimension.

$$y_i = \text{Lap}\left(\frac{\alpha}{\epsilon}\right) \quad (\text{What will } \alpha \text{ be?})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PrivacyLoss} &= \ln \left( \frac{\Pr(M(x) = z \mid x)}{\Pr(M(y) = z \mid y)} \right) \\ &= \ln \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1}^k \Pr(y_i = z_i - (f(x))_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^k \Pr(y_i = z_i - (f(y))_i)} \right) \\ &= \ln \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\epsilon}{2\alpha} e^{\left(\frac{-|z_i - f(x)_i| \epsilon}{\alpha}\right)}}{\prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\epsilon}{2\alpha} e^{\left(\frac{-|z_i - f(y)_i| \epsilon}{\alpha}\right)}} \right) \\ &\leq \ln \prod_{i=1}^k e^{\frac{\epsilon |f(x)_i - f(y)_i|}{\alpha}} \\ &= \ln e^{\frac{\epsilon \|f(x) - f(y)\|_1}{\alpha}} \end{aligned}$$

For this to be  $\epsilon$ -differential private:

$$\alpha = \|f(x) - f(y)\|_1$$

Since, we don't know  $\|f(x) - f(y)\|_1$ , we take the maximum possible:

$$\Delta f = \sup \|f(x) - f(y)\|_1 \quad (L_1 \text{ sensitivity of } f)$$

thus,  $\alpha = \Delta f$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PrivacyLoss} &= \ln e^{\frac{\epsilon \|f(x) - f(y)\|_1}{\Delta f}} \\ &\leq \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

## 4 Sensitivity

For  $f : D \rightarrow R^k$ , the sensitivity of  $f$  is

$$\Delta f = \max_{D_1, D_2} \|f(D_1) - f(D_2)\|_1 \quad (1)$$

For all  $D_1, D_2$  differing in at most one element.

The sensitivity is represented as  $\Delta f$  and the query is represented as function  $f$

The sensitivity of query helps us understand how much an individual's data influences the calculations and consequently the amount of noise that needs to be added

The sensitivity of  $f$  is normally small and consequently in most scenarios, the DP algorithm doesn't need to add much noise.

Large Sensitivity when the value of  $\epsilon$  is fixed serves as a warning that more noise needs to be added to mask the data

## 5 $(\epsilon, \delta)$ differential privacy

- When  $\epsilon \ll 1$

$$P_r(M(x) \in E) \leq e^\epsilon P_r(M(y) \in E) \quad (2)$$

is similar to

$$P_r(M(x) \in E) \leq (1 + \epsilon) P_r(M(y) \in E) \quad (3)$$

For very small  $x$  i.e.  $x \ll 1$

$$e^x \equiv 1 + x$$

- $\forall E \subset S, \forall x, y$  s.t.

$$\|x - y\|_1$$

$$P_r(M(x) \in E) \leq e^\epsilon P_r(M(y) \in E) + \delta \quad (4)$$

- we don't use  $\delta$  unless we can guarantee that  $\delta < \frac{1}{n}$
- $(\epsilon, 0)$  we always achieve  $\epsilon$  - differential privacy
- $(\epsilon, \delta)$ , we can achieve  $\epsilon$ -differential privacy with probability  $\frac{1}{1-\delta}$

- Instead of Laplace noise, we add gaussian noise  $(0, \sigma^2)$ , where  $\sigma = \frac{\Delta_2 f \sqrt{c \ln(\frac{1}{\delta})}}{\epsilon}$ , where  $\Delta_2 f$  is  $L_2$  sensitivity

$$\delta_2 = \sup_{\|x-y\|_1} \|f(x) - f(y)\|_2$$

and

$$c^2 \geq 2 \ln\left(\frac{1.25}{\delta}\right)$$

then it is  $(\epsilon, \delta)$  differential private

- Risk (in 2013) :  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{d}{\epsilon n}\right)$  where  $d$  is the no. of bits in each row.  
On average :  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\tilde{d}}{\epsilon n}\right)$   
Currently the risk is (2016) :  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\sqrt{d \ln \frac{1}{\delta}}}{\epsilon n}\right)$

## References

- [1] <https://www.cis.upenn.edu/~aaroht/Papers/privacybook.pdf>
- [2] <https://medium.com/georgian-impact-blog/a-brief-introduction-to-differential-privacy>
- [3] <http://sigmod2017.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/04-Differential-Privacy-in-the-wild-1.pdf>