

Apprixmate Differential Privacy

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1. **(25 points)** Let $D = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \in [0, 1]^n$ be a dataset and q is the average query, meaning $q_D = (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i)/n$. Consider the mechanism

$$Z_D = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{with probability } q(D), \\ 0, & \text{with probability } 1 - q(D). \end{cases}$$

Determine the approximate privacy parameters for this mechanism.

2. **(25 points)** Let D be dataset of size n and q be a counting query. Consider the *uniform* mechanism which adds uniform noise to q_D , that is

$$Z_D = q_D + N,$$

where $N \sim \text{Uniform}[-\lambda, \lambda]$ is uniformly distributed on the interval $[-\lambda, \lambda]$ for some $\lambda > 0$. How large must λ be to satisfy (ϵ, δ) DP? When $\delta < \frac{1}{n}$, will this mechanism produce useful information?

3. **(Bonus 25 points)** Suppose dataset $D = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ is a dataset consisting of n i.i.d. random variables drawn from $\text{Bernoulli}(p)$ with a given value of p . Moreover, suppose $M : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ is an (ϵ, δ) -DP mechanism and $A : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ is an adversary that seeks to reconstruct the dataset D from the output of M . Prove that the expected fraction of bits (i.e., coordinates) that the adversary successfully reconstructs is not much larger than the trivial bound of $\max\{p, 1 - p\}$ (which can be achieved by guessing the all-zeroes or all-ones dataset). Specifically:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{\#\{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} : A(M(D))_i = X_i\}}{n} \right] \leq e^\epsilon \cdot \max\{p, 1 - p\} + \delta.$$

Here by $A(M(D))_i$, we mean the i th coordinate of $A(M(D))$.