

f -Divergences and Applications to Privacy

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Based on joint work with Shahab Asodeh (McMaster) & Flavio Calmon (Harvard)



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Outline

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f -Divergences and Contraction

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Local Differential Privacy

f -Divergences and Contraction

Probability Simplex

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Def. Given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the probability simplex in \mathbb{R}^n is the set defined as

$$P([n]) := \{p \in \mathbb{R}^n : p_1, \dots, p_n \geq 0; p_1 + \dots + p_n = 1\}$$

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From a statistical perspective, the geometry of $P([n])$ is not obvious...

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$$D_f(P \parallel Q) = \sum_{x \in X} f \left(\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \right) Q(x):$$

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Some f -divergences have useful operational interpretations!

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$$K(y|x) = P(Y = y | X = x):$$

$$X \rightarrow \boxed{K} \rightarrow Y$$

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$$P \mapsto \boxed{K} \mapsto KP$$

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$$P \not\vdash \boxed{K} \not\vdash KP$$

$$Q \not\vdash \boxed{K} \not\vdash KQ$$

Data Processing Inequality (DPI): $D_f(KP \ll KQ) \leq D_f(P \ll Q)$

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Def. For $\lambda \in (0; 1)$, the Hockey-Stick divergence is the f -divergence defined by

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} (1 - \lambda)t & t < 1; \\ \lambda & t > 1; \end{cases}$$

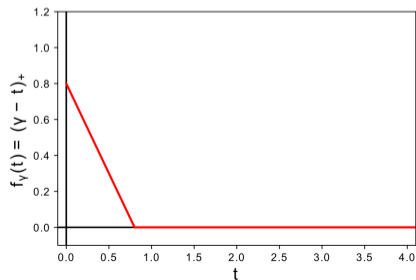
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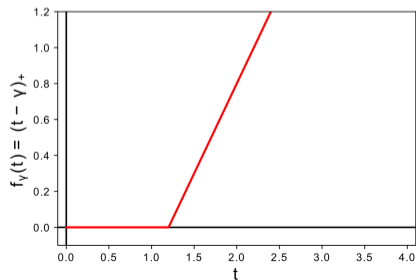


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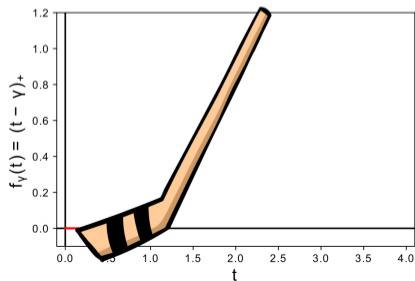


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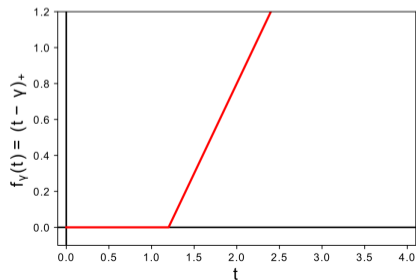


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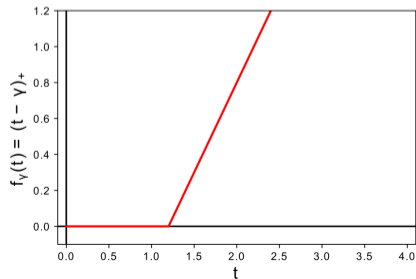
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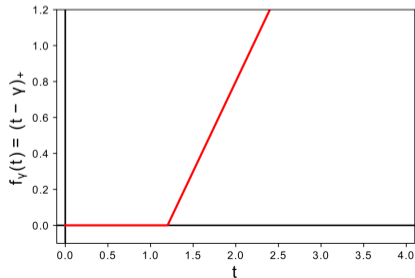
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$$\lambda < 1: E(P \parallel Q) = \sup_A [Q(A) - \lambda P(A)]$$

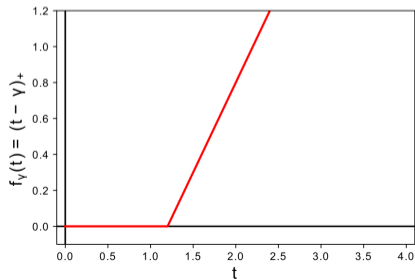


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Def. For $f \in \mathcal{L}(0; 1)$, the Hockey-Stick divergence is the f -divergence defined by

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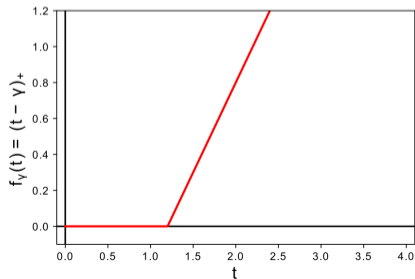
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If f is twice differentiable, then

$$D_f(P \llcorner Q) = \int_0^1 E(P \llcorner Q) f''(\lambda) d\lambda.$$

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$$\text{Pinsker's Inequality: } \text{TV}(P; Q) \leq \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q)}$$

f -Divergences IV: Relation between f -Divergences

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If $H^2(P; Q)$ is the squared Hellinger distance (i.e., $f(t) = (1 - \sqrt{t})^2$), then

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There are many relations between f -divergences...

...but there is a systematic form to obtain them!

f -Divergences V: Joint Range Strategy

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Notation. Given two f -divergences D_f and D_g , their joint range is defined as

$$R(f;g) := \{ D_f(P\|Q); D_g(P\|Q) : P; Q \text{ pmfs on some alphabet } X \};$$
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Thm. $R(f;g) = \text{co}(R_2(f;g))$

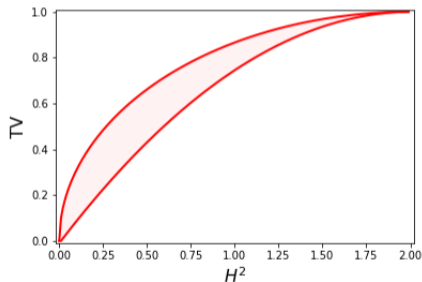
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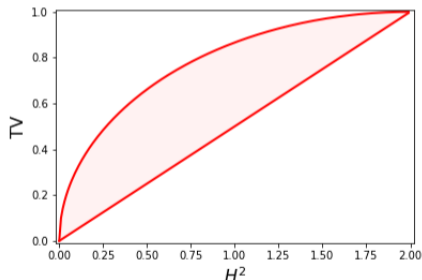
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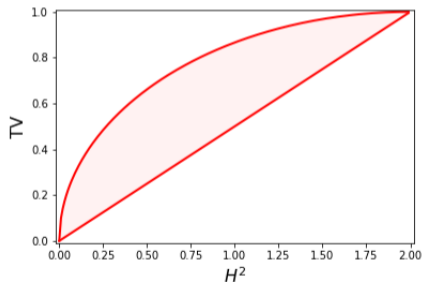
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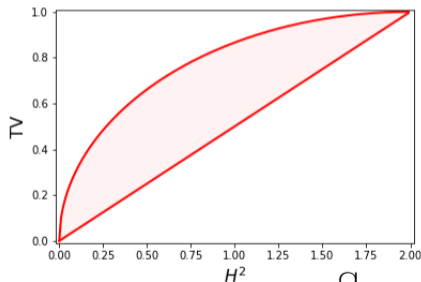
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$$\frac{1}{2} H^2(P;Q) \quad \text{TV}(P;Q) \quad H(P;Q) \quad 1 \quad \overline{H^2(P;Q)=4}$$

f -Divergences VI: Strong Data Processing Inequality

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Def. The contraction coefficient of a Markov kernel K under f -divergence is defined as

$$f(K) = \sup_{\substack{P, Q: \\ 0 < D_f(P, KQ) < 1}} \frac{D_f(KP, KQ)}{D_f(P, KQ)}.$$

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For all $P; Q$, we have $D_f(KP \ll KQ) \leq f(K) D_f(P \ll Q)$.

$$P \ll \boxed{K} \ll KP$$

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$$P \xrightarrow{K} KP$$

$$Q \xrightarrow{K} KQ$$

Thm. If K is a Markov kernel, then $\tau_V(K) = \sup_{x_1, x_2 \in X} \text{TV}(K(x_1); K(x_2))$.

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Notation. For ease of notation, we let $\mathcal{D}_f(K) := E_f$.

Thm. Let $f \in \mathcal{L}(0; 1)$. If K is a Markov kernel, then

$$\mathcal{D}_f(K) = \sup_{x_1, x_2 \in X} E_f(K(x_1) \cdot | K(x_2) \cdot):$$

f -Divergences VII: Generalized Dobrushin's Formula

Notation. For ease of notation, we let $\mathbb{E}_K := E$.

Thm. Let $\mathcal{X} \geq 2$ ($0; 1$). If K is a Markov kernel, then

$$\mathcal{D}_f(K) = \sup_{x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{X}} \mathbb{E}_K (K(x_1) \cdot K(x_2)):$$

Inequalities between contraction coefficients

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Inequalities between contraction coefficients

$$(K) \geq \text{TV}(K) \geq \frac{1}{2} (K) \text{ for all } \mathcal{X} \geq 2$$

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Inequalities between contraction coefficients

$$D_f(K) \geq \text{TV}(K) \geq \frac{1}{\mathcal{X}} D_f(K) \text{ for all } \mathcal{X} \geq 1$$

$$D_f(K) \geq \text{TV}(K) \text{ for all } f\text{-divergence}$$

Local Differential Privacy

Big Data, Big Scandals

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Ignoring privacy could be problematic...

Big Data, Big Scandals

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Different settings, different precise meanings...

Privacy in Surveys

Privacy in Surveys

Personal
Information

Collected
Information

Respondent

Curator

Privacy in Surveys

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Randomized Response Mechanism

1. Toss a coin.
2. If heads, then answer honestly.
3. If tails, then toss and answer
“Yes” if heads, “No” if tails.

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Def. For $\epsilon > 0$, the randomized response mechanism is defined by

$$K(j|0) = \text{Ber}(1 - p) \text{ \& } K(j|1) = \text{Ber}(p);$$

where $p = \frac{\epsilon}{2(1 + \epsilon)}$.

Local Differential Privacy

Local Differential Privacy

Notation. Recall that $K(A|x) = P(Y \in A | X = x)$ where $X \in \mathcal{K} \mid Y$.

Local Differential Privacy

Notation. Recall that $K(A|x) = P(Y \in A | X = x)$ where $X \in \mathcal{X}$ and $Y \in \mathcal{Y}$.

Def. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and $\delta \in [0, 1]$. A kernel K is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP if, for every $x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{X}$ and $A \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$,

$$K(A|x_1) \leq e^\epsilon K(A|x_2) + \delta$$

Local Differential Privacy

Notation. Recall that $K(A|x) = P(Y \in A | X = x)$ where $X \in \mathcal{X}$ and $Y \in \mathcal{Y}$.

Def. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and $\delta \in [0, 1]$. A kernel K is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP if, for every $x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{X}$ and $A \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$,

$$K(A|x_1) \leq e^\epsilon K(A|x_2) + \delta$$

For small ϵ and $\delta \in [0, 1]$, $|K(y|x_1) - K(y|x_2)| \leq \epsilon + \delta$.

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Example. The randomized response mechanism is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP.

Three Archetypal Problems in Privacy Analysis

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Understand privacy from a 'fundamental' perspective

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Assess the cost of privacy in specific statistical applications

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Compute/estimate the privacy parameters of specific mechanisms

LDP as Contraction of HS-Divergence

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Thm. A privacy mechanism \mathcal{K} is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP if and only if $\mathcal{K} \in \text{HS-Divergence}(\epsilon, \delta)$.

LDP as Contraction of HS-Divergence

Thm. A privacy mechanism \mathcal{K} is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP if and only if $\mathcal{K} \in \mathcal{C}_{\epsilon, \delta}(K)$.

Proof.

LDP as Contraction of HS-Divergence

Thm. A privacy mechanism K is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP if and only if $\epsilon(K) \leq \frac{1}{1-\delta}$.

Proof. K is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP, $\epsilon(K) \leq \frac{1}{1-\delta}$, $\sup_{x_1, x_2 \in X} \sup_{A \subseteq Y} [K(A|x_1) - \delta K(A|x_2)] \leq \epsilon(K)$.

LDP as Contraction of HS-Divergence

Thm. A privacy mechanism K is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP if and only if $e(K) \leq \epsilon + \delta$.

Proof. K is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP, $\sup_{x_1, x_2 \in X} \sup_{A \in Y} [K(A|x_1) - e K(A|x_2)] \leq \epsilon + \delta$.

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Proof. K is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP, $\sup_{x_1, x_2 \in X} \sup_{A \in Y} [K(A|x_1) - \delta K(A|x_2)] \leq \epsilon$,
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Proof. K is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP \iff $\sup_{x_1, x_2 \in X} \sup_{A \subseteq Y} [K(A|x_1) - \delta] \leq \epsilon K(A|x_2)$
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Proof. K is $(\epsilon; \delta)$ -LDP , $\sup_{x_1, x_2 \in X} \sup_{A \subseteq Y} [K(A|x_1) - e^{-\epsilon} K(A|x_2)] \leq \delta$
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 , $e^{-\epsilon} (K)$ □

Duchi et al. '13: If K is $(\epsilon; 0)$ -LDP, then $D_{KL}(K \circ P \parallel K \circ Q) \leq 2(\epsilon - 1)^2 k_P - Q k_{TV}$.

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 $\iff \sup_{x_1, x_2 \in X} E_e(K(x_1) \| K(x_2)) \leq \epsilon + \delta e^\epsilon$
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"Our main technique... shows that applying differentially private sampling schemes essentially acts as a contraction on distributions."

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Understand privacy from a 'fundamental' perspective

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Binary Hypothesis Testing

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Goal. From a sample of \mathcal{X} , choose between

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Goal. From a sample \mathbf{X} , choose between

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True Negative Rate

$$\beta(\delta) := P(\delta(\mathbf{X}) = 0 | H_0)$$

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True Negative Rate

$$TNR(\delta) := P(\delta(X) = 0 | H_0)$$

False Negative Rate

$$FNR(\delta) := P(\delta(X) = 0 | H_1)$$

$$(P; Q) := \inf_{\delta} (TNR(\delta) + FNR(\delta))$$

Cost of LDP in Binary Hypothesis Testing

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Notation. Let P^n be the distribution of

$$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} P:$$

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \frac{1}{(P^n; Q^n)} = D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q):$$

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Under (ϵ, δ) -LDP: $P \approx_{\epsilon, \delta} K^P, Q \approx_{\epsilon, \delta} K^Q$ &

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$$D_{\text{KL}}(KP \parallel KQ) \approx_{\epsilon, \delta} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q):$$

By the relation between f and ϵ ,

$$D_{\text{KL}}(K \parallel Q) \approx_{\epsilon, \delta} \frac{1}{\epsilon} \log \frac{1}{e^{-\epsilon D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q)}}:$$

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By the relation between f and ϕ ,

$$D_{\text{KL}}(K \parallel 1) = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \phi(\epsilon):$$

Since K is (ϵ, δ) -LDP, $\phi(\epsilon) \geq \epsilon D_{\text{KL}}(K \parallel 1) - \delta$,

$$D_{\text{KL}}(K \parallel 1) \geq \frac{1}{\epsilon} \phi(\epsilon) - \frac{\delta}{\epsilon}:$$

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By the relation between ϵ and δ ,

$$\epsilon D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q) \leq \frac{1}{\delta} \frac{1}{e^{D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q)}}:$$

Since K is (ϵ, δ) -LDP, $\frac{1}{\delta} \frac{1}{e^{D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q)}} \leq \epsilon$,

$$D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q) \leq \frac{1}{\delta \epsilon}:$$

Thm. If K is (ϵ, δ) -LDP, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \frac{1}{(KP^n; KQ^n)} \leq \frac{1}{\delta \epsilon} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q).$

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Thm. If K is (ϵ, δ) -LDP, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \frac{1}{(KP^n; KQ^n)} \leq \frac{1}{\delta} + \frac{1}{e^{\delta}} D_{\text{KL}}(P \parallel Q).$

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DP under Composition: Iterative Algorithms

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$$0 \quad W_0 \quad ! \quad \boxed{K_1 \quad ! \quad K_2 \quad ! \quad \dots \quad ! \quad K_n \quad !} \quad W_n \quad n$$

DP under Composition: Iterative Algorithms

$$W_0 \xrightarrow{K_1} \xrightarrow{K_2} \dots \xrightarrow{K_n} W_n$$

DP for iterative algorithms:

$$\sup_{\theta \in \mathcal{P}(X)} \mathbb{E} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \theta_k \right) \text{ with } \theta_k = e$$

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Contraction philosophy:

$$\mathbb{E} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \theta_k \right) \leq \mathbb{E} (K_n) + \mathbb{E} (K_1)$$

Final Remarks

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