

# Differentially Private LQG

**Matthew Hale**

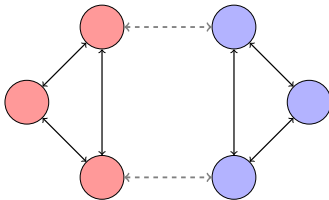
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
University of Florida

AFOSR Center of Excellence on Assured Autonomy in Contested Environments  
October 15, 2019



# Goal: Share Information Without Oversharing

- ▶ In coalitions, we want to collaborate while keeping secrets

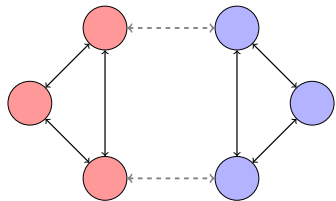


- ▶ To work together, red and blue must exchange information



# Goal: Share Information Without Oversharing

- ▶ In coalitions, we want to collaborate while keeping secrets

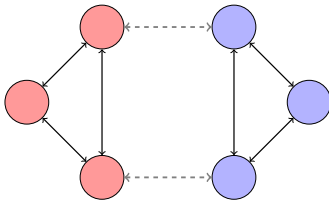


- ▶ To work together, red and blue must exchange information
- ▶ Agents must protect states from eavesdroppers *and* the other team



# Goal: Share Information Without Oversharing

- ▶ In coalitions, we want to collaborate while keeping secrets



- ▶ To work together, red and blue must exchange information
- ▶ Agents must protect states from eavesdroppers *and* the other team

## Fundamental Problem

How can agents safeguard state trajectories and still collaborate?



# How should we provide privacy?





# How should we provide privacy?

## Differential Privacy (DP)

DP is a privacy framework with a several key features:

- ▶ It offers a formal definition of “privacy”



# How should we provide privacy?

## Differential Privacy (DP)

DP is a privacy framework with a several key features:

- ▶ It offers a formal definition of “privacy”
- ▶ It is immune to post-processing
  - ▶  $x$  private  $\Rightarrow f(x)$  private for all  $f$



# How should we provide privacy?

## Differential Privacy (DP)

DP is a privacy framework with a several key features:

- ▶ It offers a formal definition of “privacy”
- ▶ It is immune to post-processing
  - ▶  $x$  private  $\Rightarrow f(x)$  private for all  $f$
- ▶ It is robust to side information





# How should we provide privacy?

## Differential Privacy (DP)

DP is a privacy framework with a several key features:

- ▶ It offers a formal definition of “privacy”
- ▶ It is immune to post-processing
  - ▶  $x$  private  $\Rightarrow f(x)$  private for all  $f$
- ▶ It is robust to side information

▶ Used by:

Apple



Google



Uber





# How should we provide privacy?

## Differential Privacy (DP)

DP is a privacy framework with a several key features:

- ▶ It offers a formal definition of “privacy”
- ▶ It is immune to post-processing
  - ▶  $x$  private  $\Rightarrow f(x)$  private for all  $f$
- ▶ It is robust to side information

▶ Used by:



DP Idea

**Make “adjacent” state trajectories produce “similar” outputs**

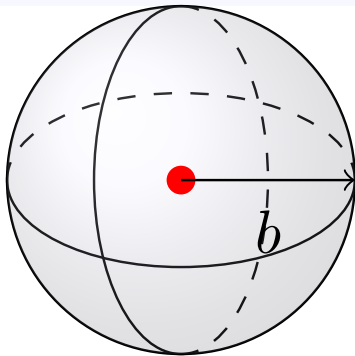


# Adjacency Specifies What to Protect

## Adjacent trajectories in $\ell_p$ -spaces

We fix a constant  $b > 0$  and define  $\text{Adj}_b : \ell_p^n \times \ell_p^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  as

$$\text{Adj}_b(x_1, x_2) = 1 \iff \|x_1 - x_2\|_{\ell_p} \leq b.$$



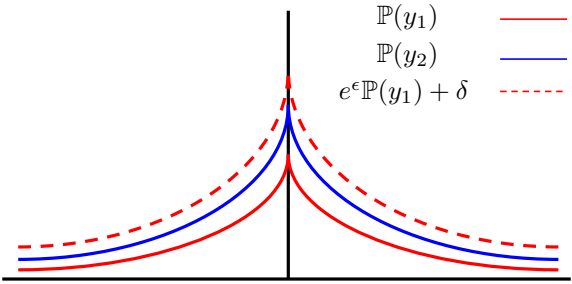


# Differential Privacy is a Statistical Guarantee

## Fundamental Inequality of Differential Privacy

For adjacent state trajectories  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , we want the outputs  $y_1, y_2$  to satisfy

$$\mathbb{P}(y_2) \leq e^\epsilon \mathbb{P}(y_1) + \delta,$$





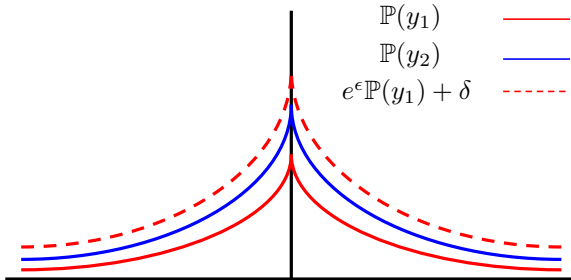
# Differential Privacy is a Statistical Guarantee

## Fundamental Inequality of Differential Privacy

For adjacent state trajectories  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , we want the outputs  $y_1, y_2$  to satisfy

$$\mathbb{P}(y_2) \leq e^\epsilon \mathbb{P}(y_1) + \delta,$$

**This is the definition of  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -differential privacy.**





# Mechanisms for Differential Privacy

- ▶ Fix a probability space  $(\Omega, \Sigma, \mathbb{P})$ . Differential privacy is enforced by a *mechanism* of the form

$$M : \ell_p^n \times \Omega \rightarrow \ell_q^r.$$

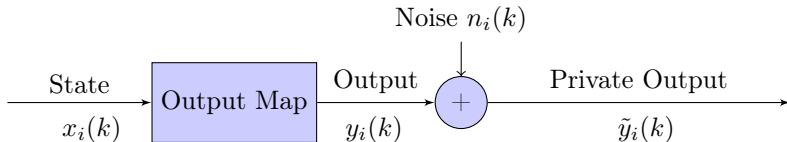


# Mechanisms for Differential Privacy

- ▶ Fix a probability space  $(\Omega, \Sigma, \mathbb{P})$ . Differential privacy is enforced by a *mechanism* of the form

$$M : \ell_p^n \times \Omega \rightarrow \ell_q^r.$$

- ▶ For us this will take the form





- ▶ Consider problems with  $N$  agents
- ▶ Agent  $i$  has the update and output maps

$$\begin{aligned}x_i(k+1) &= A_i x_i(k) + B_i u_i(k) \\ y_i(k) &= C_i x_i(k)\end{aligned}$$





- ▶ Consider problems with  $N$  agents
- ▶ Agent  $i$  has the update and output maps

$$\begin{aligned}x_i(k+1) &= A_i x_i(k) + B_i u_i(k) + w_i(k) \\ y_i(k) &= C_i x_i(k) + v_i(k),\end{aligned}$$

where  $w_i(k) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, W_i)$ ,  $v_i(k) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, V_i)$

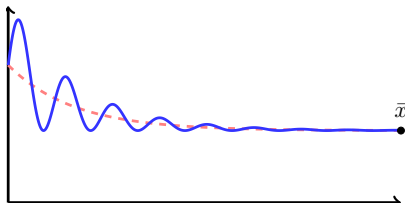


- ▶ Consider problems with  $N$  agents
- ▶ Agent  $i$  has the update and output maps

$$\begin{aligned}x_i(k+1) &= A_i x_i(k) + B_i u_i(k) + w_i(k) \\ y_i(k) &= C_i x_i(k) + v_i(k),\end{aligned}$$

where  $w_i(k) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, W_i)$ ,  $v_i(k) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, V_i)$

- ▶ Agent  $i$  wants to track  $\{\bar{x}_i(k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$





# Generating Optimal LQG Control Values

- ▶ We want to minimize the quadratic cost

$$J = \lim_{T_f \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T_f} \mathbb{E} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^{T_f} (x(k) - \bar{x}(k))^T Q (x(k) - \bar{x}(k))}_{\text{Tracking error}} + \underbrace{u(k)^T R u(k)}_{\text{Control energy}} \right]$$



# Generating Optimal LQG Control Values

- ▶ We want to minimize the quadratic cost

$$J = \lim_{T_f \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T_f} \mathbb{E} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^{T_f} (x(k) - \bar{x}(k))^T Q (x(k) - \bar{x}(k))}_{\text{Tracking error}} + \underbrace{u(k)^T R u(k)}_{\text{Control energy}} \right]$$

- ▶ Subject to the linear dynamics

$$x(k+1) = Ax(k) + Bu(k) + w(k)$$

$$y(k) = Cx(k) + v(k)$$



# Generating Optimal LQG Control Values

- ▶ We want to minimize the quadratic cost

$$J = \lim_{T_f \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T_f} \mathbb{E} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^{T_f} (x(k) - \bar{x}(k))^T Q (x(k) - \bar{x}(k))}_{\text{Tracking error}} + \underbrace{u(k)^T R u(k)}_{\text{Control energy}} \right]$$

- ▶ Subject to the linear dynamics

$$x(k+1) = Ax(k) + Bu(k) + w(k)$$

$$y(k) = Cx(k) + v(k)$$

- ▶ Solution is

$$u^*(k) = L\mathbb{E}[x(k)] + Mg$$

for known  $M$ ,  $L$ , and  $g$



# Agents Must Share State Information

- ▶ Agent  $i$  computes

$$u_i^*(k) = \left( L\mathbb{E}[x(k)] \right)_i + \left( Mg \right)_i$$

- ▶ Computing  $\mathbb{E}[x(k)]$  can be done with a Kalman filter, but requires agents to share states



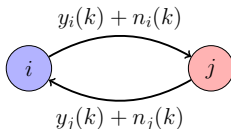
# Agents Must Share State Information

- ▶ Agent  $i$  computes

$$u_i^*(k) = \left( L\mathbb{E}[x(k)] \right)_i + \left( Mg \right)_i$$

- ▶ Computing  $\mathbb{E}[x(k)]$  can be done with a Kalman filter, but requires agents to share states
- ▶ Agent  $i$  privatizes its own transmissions by sending

$$\tilde{y}_i(k) = C_i x_i(k) + v_i(k) + n_i(k)$$





# Computing $g$ also Requires Privacy

- ▶ Agents also need to compute

$$g = NQ\bar{x},$$

but  $\bar{x}$  is very sensitive!



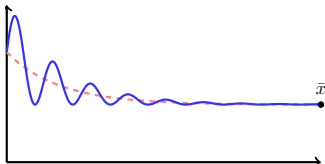


# Computing $g$ also Requires Privacy

- ▶ Agents also need to compute

$$g = NQ\bar{x},$$

but  $\bar{x}$  is very sensitive!



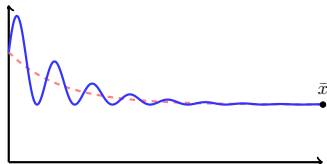


# Computing $g$ also Requires Privacy

- ▶ Agents also need to compute

$$g = NQ\bar{x},$$

but  $\bar{x}$  is very sensitive!



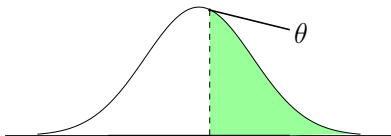
- ▶ Agent  $i$  instead shares  $\tilde{x}_i := \bar{x}_i + \bar{w}_i$
- ▶ Then agent  $i$  computes

$$u_i^*(k) = \left( L\mathbb{E}[x(k) \mid \tilde{y}(k)] \right)_i + \left( MNQ\tilde{x} \right)_i$$

# When is this private?

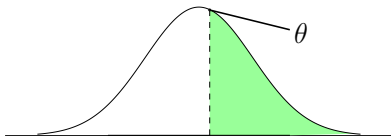


▶ Need the  $Q$ -function:  $Q(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\theta}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz$





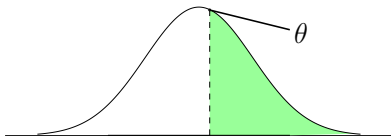
- ▶ Need the  $Q$ -function:  $Q(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\theta}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz$



- ▶ Define  $K_{\delta} = Q^{-1}(\delta)$  and  $\kappa(\delta, \epsilon) = \frac{1}{2\epsilon} (K_{\delta} + \sqrt{K_{\delta}^2 + 2\epsilon})$



- ▶ Need the  $Q$ -function:  $Q(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\theta}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz$



- ▶ Define  $K_{\delta} = Q^{-1}(\delta)$  and  $\kappa(\delta, \epsilon) = \frac{1}{2\epsilon} (K_{\delta} + \sqrt{K_{\delta}^2 + 2\epsilon})$

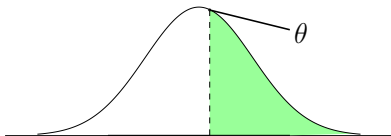
## Theorem: Multi-Agent LQ Privacy

Agent  $i$  uses  $\epsilon_i > 0$ ,  $\delta_i \in (0, 1/2)$ . Agent  $i$  attains  $(\epsilon_i, \delta_i)$ -privacy if:

- $\tilde{x}_i := \bar{x}_i + \bar{w}_i$  has  $\bar{w}_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \kappa(\delta_i, \epsilon_i)b_i)$



- ▶ Need the  $Q$ -function:  $Q(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\theta}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz$



- ▶ Define  $K_{\delta} = Q^{-1}(\delta)$  and  $\kappa(\delta, \epsilon) = \frac{1}{2\epsilon} (K_{\delta} + \sqrt{K_{\delta}^2 + 2\epsilon})$

## Theorem: Multi-Agent LQ Privacy

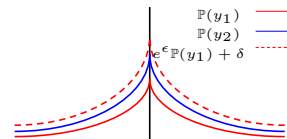
Agent  $i$  uses  $\epsilon_i > 0$ ,  $\delta_i \in (0, 1/2)$ . Agent  $i$  attains  $(\epsilon_i, \delta_i)$ -privacy if:

- i.  $\tilde{x}_i := \bar{x}_i + \bar{w}_i$  has  $\bar{w}_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \kappa(\delta_i, \epsilon_i)b_i)$
- ii.  $\tilde{y}_i(k) := y(k) + n_i(k)$  has  $n_i(k) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \kappa(\delta_i, \epsilon_i)b_i \sqrt{\lambda_{\max}(C_i)})$

# What does privacy reveal?

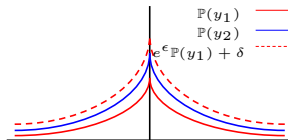


- ▶ Privacy's guarantees are only about information



# What does privacy reveal?

- ▶ Privacy's guarantees are only about information



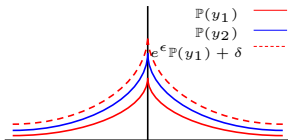
- ▶ Its impact is often stated in terms of only  $\epsilon$  and  $\delta$





# What does privacy reveal?

- ▶ Privacy's guarantees are only about information



- ▶ Its impact is often stated in terms of only  $\epsilon$  and  $\delta$

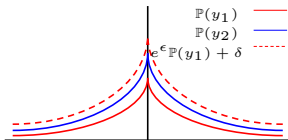
## Questions in Private Control

- 1 How does privacy affect control performance?



# What does privacy reveal?

- ▶ Privacy's guarantees are only about information



- ▶ Its impact is often stated in terms of only  $\epsilon$  and  $\delta$

## Questions in Private Control

- 1 How does privacy affect control performance?
- 2 What are the tradeoffs between them?

# How do we calibrate privacy?



# How do we calibrate privacy?

- ▶ Quantifying the increase in  $J$  gives a natural control-theoretic cost of privacy to use for privacy calibration

# How do we calibrate privacy?

- ▶ Quantifying the increase in  $J$  gives a natural control-theoretic cost of privacy to use for privacy calibration

Theorem: Cost of Privacy

The cost of privatizing LQG is

$$\Delta J(\epsilon, \delta) = \text{tr}(M_1 \Sigma + M_2 \bar{\Sigma}) - \text{tr}(M_3) + \text{tr}(M_4 \bar{W})$$

# How do we calibrate privacy?



- ▶ Quantifying the increase in  $J$  gives a natural control-theoretic cost of privacy to use for privacy calibration

Theorem: Cost of Privacy

The cost of privatizing LQG is

$$\Delta J(\epsilon, \delta) = \text{tr}(M_1 \Sigma + M_2 \bar{\Sigma}) - \text{tr}(M_3) + \text{tr}(M_4 \bar{W})$$

- $\bar{W}$  is the covariance of privacy noise for  $\bar{x}$



# How do we calibrate privacy?

- ▶ Quantifying the increase in  $J$  gives a natural control-theoretic cost of privacy to use for privacy calibration

Theorem: Cost of Privacy

The cost of privatizing LQG is

$$\Delta J(\epsilon, \delta) = \text{tr}(M_1 \Sigma + M_2 \bar{\Sigma}) - \text{tr}(M_3) + \text{tr}(M_4 \bar{W})$$

- $\bar{W}$  is the covariance of privacy noise for  $\bar{x}$
- $\Sigma$  solves the ARE

$$\Sigma = A \Sigma A^T - A \Sigma C^T \left( C \Sigma C^T + V(\epsilon, \delta) \right)^{-1} C \Sigma A^T + W$$



- ▶ Quantifying the increase in  $J$  gives a natural control-theoretic cost of privacy to use for privacy calibration

## Theorem: Cost of Privacy

The cost of privatizing LQG is

$$\Delta J(\epsilon, \delta) = \text{tr}(M_1 \Sigma + M_2 \bar{\Sigma}) - \text{tr}(M_3) + \text{tr}(M_4 \bar{W})$$

- $\bar{W}$  is the covariance of privacy noise for  $\bar{x}$
- $\Sigma$  solves the ARE

$$\Sigma = A \Sigma A^T - A \Sigma C^T \left( C \Sigma C^T + V(\epsilon, \delta) \right)^{-1} C \Sigma A^T + W$$

- $\bar{\Sigma}$  is computed via

$$\bar{\Sigma} = \Sigma - \Sigma C^T (C \Sigma C^T + V)^{-1} C \Sigma$$





# Can I relax privacy for better performance?

- ▶ A privacy rule of thumb is that “all small epsilons are alike”



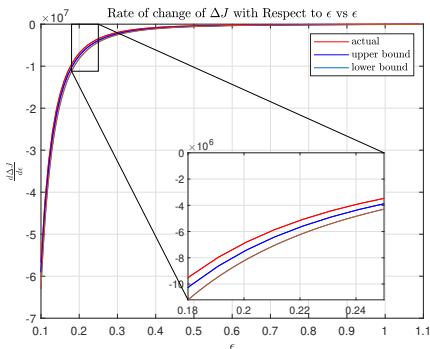
# Can I relax privacy for better performance?

- ▶ A privacy rule of thumb is that “all small epsilons are alike”
- ▶ Slightly reducing privacy doesn't reveal much more, can save on cost



# Can I relax privacy for better performance?

- ▶ A privacy rule of thumb is that “all small epsilons are alike”
- ▶ Slightly reducing privacy doesn't reveal much more, can save on cost



- ▶ Across many problems, increasing any  $\epsilon < 0.5$  leads to substantial reductions in cost