# Continuous-Source Fuzzy Extractors:
# Source uncertainty and security

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## Abstract

Fuzzy extractors (Dodis et al., Eurocrypt 2004) convert repeated noisy readings of a high-entropy source into the same uniformly distributed key. The functionality of a fuzzy extractor outputs the key when provided with a value close to the original reading of the source. A necessary condition for security, called fuzzy min-entropy, is that the probability of every ball of values of the noisy source is small.

Many noisy sources are best modeled using continuous metric spaces. To build *continuous-source fuzzy extractors*, prior work assumes that the system designer has a good model of the distribution (Verbitskiy et al., IEEE TIFS 2010). However, it is impossible to build an accurate model of a high entropy distribution just by sampling from the distribution.

Model inaccuracy may be a serious problem. We demonstrate a family of continuous distributions $\mathcal{W}$ that is impossible to secure. No fuzzy extractor designed for $\mathcal{W}$ extracts a meaningful key from an average element of $\mathcal{W}$. This impossibility result is despite the fact that each element $W \in \mathcal{W}$ has high fuzzy min-entropy. We show a qualitatively stronger negative result for secure sketches, which are used to construct most fuzzy extractors.

Our results are for the Euclidean metric and are information-theoretic in nature. To the best of our knowledge all continuous-source fuzzy extractors argue information-theoretic security.

Fuller, Reyzin, and Smith showed comparable negative results for a discrete metric space equipped with the Hamming metric (Asiacrypt 2016). Continuous Euclidean space necessitates new techniques.

## 1   Introduction

Many physical processes have entropy but exhibit noise between readings of the same process [BBR88, BS00, Dau04, EHMS00, GCVDD02, MG09, PRTG02, SD07, TSS+06]. When a secret is read multiple times, readings are close (according to some metric dis) but not identical. In particular, most instantiations of physical uncloneable functions (PUFs) [PRTG02, AMS+11, KKR+12] are entropic and noisy. To use such noisy secrets in cryptographic applications, Wyner [Wyn75] and Bennett, Brassard, and Robert [BBR88] identified two fundamental tasks: 1) *Information-reconciliation:* removing noise without leaking information and 2) *Privacy amplification:* converting an entropic secret to uniformly random. We focus on non-interactive protocols that provide information-theoretic security.

In this setting, information reconciliation is performed by a secure sketch [DORS08]. A secure sketch is a pair of algorithms (SS, Rec). The SS or sketch algorithm takes an initial reading $w$ and produces a

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nonsecret *helper* value $ss$. Let $t$ be an error parameter. The Rec or recover algorithm takes a subsequent reading $w'$ along with $ss$ and outputs $w$ if $\mathsf{dis}(w, w') \leq t$. The security requirement for a secure sketch is that $w$ is hard to predict given $ss$.

A fuzzy extractor performs information reconciliation and privacy amplification simultaneously, producing a stable and nearly uniform key [DORS08]. Fuzzy extractors similarly consist of two algorithms. The generate algorithm (Gen) takes an initial reading $w$, producing a key along with a nonsecret helper value pub. The reproduce (Rep) algorithm takes $w'$ and pub, reproducing key if $\mathsf{dis}(w, w') \leq t$. The security requirement for fuzzy extractors is that key is statistically close to uniform knowing pub. Most fuzzy extractors combine a secure sketch and a randomness extractor [NZ93].

We consider sources $W$ taking values in a continuous metric space. To distinguish from the discrete case, a fuzzy extractor for such sources is known as a *continuous-source* fuzzy extractor [BDHV07]. Multiple PUFs produce such features including optical [PRTG02, SFIC14] and capacitance [TSS$^+$06] PUFs. We consider an $n$-dimension space with Euclidean distance: $\mathsf{dis}(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(x_i - y_i)^2}$.

The key question in designing a fuzzy extractor is which distributions $W$ can be "secured." A distribution $W$ has min-entropy, denoted $\mathrm{H}_\infty(W)$, if every outcome has low probability. That is: $\mathrm{H}_\infty(W) \geq k$ if $\forall w, \Pr[W = w] \leq 2^{-k}$. There are two problems with applying min-entropy in continuous metric spaces 1) min-entropy is inherently a discrete notion and 2) there are discrete distributions with min-entropy where key derivation is impossible. For example, arbitrary distributions with *more errors than entropy* are impossible to secure [KLRW14, DGSV15, MvdLvdSW15, CFP$^+$16].

Fuller, Reyzin, and Smith [FRS16] introduced a more precise notion to measure a noisy distribution's suitability for stable key derivation called *fuzzy min-entropy*. Fuzzy min-entropy codifies the adversary's success when provided with only the *functionality* of a fuzzy extractor (or secure sketch). Consider some known distribution $W$. The adversary's best strategy is to find $w'$ that maximizes the weight of possible $w \in W$ within distance $t$ of $w'$. Denote by $B_t(w')$ the closed ball of radius $t$ around $w'$. Fuzzy min-entropy is formally defined as

$$\mathrm{H}_{t,\infty}^{\mathtt{fuzz}}(W) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\log\left(\max_{w'} \Pr[W \in B_t(w')]\right).$$

Since fuzzy extractors are designed for entropic distributions, the system designer only has a model of the underlying physical process. As the designer can only work with a limited number of samples from the distribution, this model is inherently limited. After deployment, the adversary spend more time modeling, resulting in a more accurate model. As a result fuzzy extractors work for all distributions in a family $\mathcal{W}$. Ensuring security for a whole family is called the *distributional uncertainty* setting.

**The discrete case**   Fuller, Reyzin, and Smith presented a family of distributions $\mathcal{W}$ where each element $W \in \mathcal{W}$ has fuzzy min-entropy such that no fuzzy extractor $(\mathsf{Gen}_\mathcal{W}, \mathsf{Rep}_\mathcal{W})$ can simultaneously secure the family $\mathcal{W}$. That is, any fuzzy extractor $(\mathsf{Gen}_\mathcal{W}, \mathsf{Rep}_\mathcal{W})$ must be insecure for at least one element $W \in \mathcal{W}$ assuming the adversary knows the probability distribution $W$ and the public helper value. Their result is for discrete Hamming space. We ask a natural question:

> Do continuous source fuzzy extractors exist for all families $\mathcal{W}$ with fuzzy min-entropy?

## 1.1   Our Contribution and Techniques

We show a family of distributions $\mathcal{W}$ where no fuzzy extractor or secure sketch can secure $\mathcal{W}$ (Theorems 4.1 and 5.1 respectively). This answers the above question negatively. The secure sketch result is qualitatively stronger as it holds even if the secure sketch is allowed to be wrong a constant fraction of the time. Since

these results are negative, their form is slightly difficult to understand. We show a family $\mathcal{W}$ such that for any cryptographic construction designed for $\mathcal{W}$ there exists an adversary that breaks security.

Our result holds for a uniform random $W \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{W}$. We note the nonstandard notation, we are sampling a probability distribution from a set of probability distributions. To give intuition we consider the case of a secure sketch $(\mathsf{SS}, \mathsf{Rec})$. Our result relies on the following asymmetry: $\mathsf{SS}$ sees only $w$ sampled from $W$ while the adversary knows which distribution $W$ was used to sample $w \leftarrow W$. For error tolerance the public output $ss$ must have some information about $w$. If the family $\mathcal{W}$ is carefully designed we can argue the adversary gains independent knowledge from $ss$ and the distribution $W$. Together this independent knowledge can be used to break security. In both negative results there are two key components:

1. **Leakage:** Arguing that the public value $ss$ restricts the set of possible $w$.

2. **Independence:** Showing that knowing the distribution $W$ provides independent (and therefore new) information about the point $w$.

The core of both proofs is constructing a family where these two properties hold.

**Secure sketches**    To illustrate techniques we first focus on secure sketches.

1. **Leakage:** For a secure sketch to be correct for $w$ it must hold that for most nearby $w'$, $\mathsf{Rec}(w', ss) = w$. Denote by $C$ the set of all points $w$ where $\mathsf{Rec}$ of nearby points is $w$. More formally,

$$C = \left\{ w \, \middle| \, \Pr_{w' | \mathsf{dis}(w, w') \leq t} [\mathsf{Rec}(w', ss) = w] \geq 1/2 \right\}.$$

   The points in $C$ form a Shannon error correcting code. This implies that $\forall x, y \in C$, $\mathsf{dis}(x, y) \geq t/2$. Since $C$ forms a code, one can bound the size of $C$ using packing arguments.

2. **Independence:** To show that learning the distribution $W$ gives fresh information, we consider distributions $W$ that are the set of all points with the same output of a universal hash family [CW79]. That is, the description of $W$ has two parts, the description of a hash function $h$ and an output $y$. A distribution $W_{h,y}$ is the uniform distribution over the set $\{w | h(w) = y\}$. Since the hash is universal and $h$ is not known to the $\mathsf{SS}$ algorithm, given $w$, the rest of the support of $W$ is unknown. Thus, the information in $h(y)$ reduces the uncertainty on the point $w$.

In order for each distribution $W$ to have fuzzy min-entropy it is also necessary for the universal hash family $\mathcal{H}$ to have preimage sets with minimum distance. That is, for $h \in \mathcal{H}$ and all $x, x'$ such that $h(x) = h(x')$ then $\mathsf{dis}(x, x') \geq t$. The hash function we use is all points in the coset of a random $p$-ary lattice with minimum distance $t$. This hash function and the resulting family of distributions is described in detail in Section 3.

**Fuzzy extractor**    For a fuzzy extractor, showing the **Leakage** property is more delicate:

1. **Leakage:** The functionality of a fuzzy extractor allows a continuous region to map to the same key. Thus, rather than considering consistent points, the fuzzy extractor partitions the metric space based on what key is output by $\mathsf{Rep}$. We call this partition $Q_{\mathsf{key}}$. The functionality of a fuzzy extractor demands that the true $w$ lies in the *interior* of some part in $Q_{\mathsf{key}}$. The adversary can then limit their search to points in the interior.

**Challenges of continuous metric spaces**   Euclidean space is challenging for two reasons:

1. Volume grows exponentially with the radius of the ball in Euclidean space. This growth is super exponential in Hamming space, growing exponentially in the binary entropy of the radius (see for example [Gur10]). This slower rate of volume growth increases the size of $C$ (resp. the size of the interior of parts of $Q_{\sf key}$) for secure sketches (resp. for fuzzy extractors).

2. In the fuzzy extractor case, the interior of the parts in $Q_{\sf key}$ is continuous which precludes the use of counting techniques. In place of counting techniques, we show the volume of the interior is smaller than the "volume" of different distributions. That is, we show that any region $V$ of fixed volume $v$ must not include some distributions in $\mathcal{W}$. As mentioned, each distribution $W \in \mathcal{W}$ is a coset of a random lattice with minimum distance. For region $V$ to contain a point from every coset, $v$ must be as large as the Voronoi cell of the lattice. The fraction of distributions not represented in $V$ is at least the ratio of $v$ to the volume of the Voronoi cell.

**Prior Positive Results for a single distribution $W$**   Recent work [FRS16, WCD$^+$17] shows that for any discrete distribution $W$ with (super-logarithmic) fuzzy-min entropy there is a secure discrete fuzzy extractor $({\sf Gen}_W, {\sf Rep}_W)$. These constructions need to know the probability distribution function of $W$ exactly and are not instantiable in polynomial time. This is called the *precisely known distribution or distribution sensitive setting*. However, these techniques are inherently limited to discrete metric spaces.

Prior continuous-source fuzzy extractors applied quantization or partition the input space. As an example, Verbitskiy et al. [VTO$^+$10] construct a continuous-source fuzzy extractor in the precisely known distribution model. Their construction partitions the input metric into $A$ and then subpartitions the parts of $A$ using a second partition $B$. That is, every part of $A$ intersects with every part of $B$.

The input $w$'s part in $A$ is the ${\sf key}$ while $w$'s part in $B$ is the public value ${\sf pub}$. The system is correct if for all $w, w'$ such that ${\sf dis}(w, w') \le t$ either 1) $w$ and $w'$ are in the same part of $A$ or 2) $w$ and $w'$ are in different parts of both $A$ and $B$. If $w$ and $w'$ are in different parts of $B$, $w'$ can be "pushed" in the direction of the part of $w$ in $B$. This shift will make it so that $w'$ is pushed to right part of $A$.

For security, the probability mass in $A_{\sf key} \cap B_{\sf pub}$ must be the same for all ${\sf key}, {\sf pub}$. If so, knowledge of ${\sf pub}$ gives no information about ${\sf key}$. The resulting key length is $|{\sf key}| = \log |A|$.

Verbitskiy et al. describe how to choose $A$ and $B$ for a distribution over $[0, 1]$. However, it is not clear how their technique extends to multiple dimensions or how large $A$ can be for a fixed error tolerance $t$.[1]  To the best of our knowledge it is not known how to build a continuous-source fuzzy extractor for each distribution with fuzzy min-entropy. Prior work either considers a small constant number of dimensions [VTO$^+$10] or requires dimensions of the input to be uniform or independently distributed [LSM06]. The major open question resulting from this work is whether continuous-source fuzzy extractors exist for each distribution with fuzzy min-entropy.

**Correlated random variables**   A rich line of research views $w$ and $w'$ as samples from a correlated pair of random variables [Wyn75, CK78, AC93, Mau93, RW05, TW15, HTW14]. Key length is bounded based on mutual information. These works consider the *precisely known distribution* setting.

**Organization**   The remainder of this paper is organized as follows, Section 2 covers basic notation and mathematical prerequisites, Section 3 shows the family of distributions $\mathcal{W}$ that is used in both negative results, Section 4 shows our fuzzy extractor negative result, and Section 5 shows our secure sketch negative result. We focus on the fuzzy extractor negative result as it is more challenging.

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[1]Verbitskiy et al. [VTO$^+$10] extend their construction to work in the distributional uncertainty setting. They show security when the statistical distance between the observed distribution $\tilde{W}$ and the actual distribution $W$ is small. The distributions described in this work can not be accurately estimated using a polynomial number of samples.

# 2 Preliminaries

**Random Variables** We use uppercase letters for random variables and corresponding lowercase letters for their samples. Multiple occurrence of the same random variable in an expression signifies the same value of the random variable: for example $(W, \mathsf{SS}(W))$ is a pair of random variables obtained by sampling $w$ according to $W$ and applying the algorithm $\mathsf{SS}$ to $w$. The *statistical distance* between random variables $A$ and $B$ with the same domain is

$$\mathbf{SD}(A, B) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_a |\Pr[A = a] - \Pr[B = b]| = \max_S \Pr[A \in S] - \Pr[B \in S].$$

**Entropy** All logarithms in this work are base 2. Let $(X, Y)$ be a pair of random variables. Define *min-entropy* of $X$ as $\mathrm{H}_\infty(X) = -\log\left(\max_x \Pr[X = x]\right)$. The *average (conditional)* min-entropy [DORS08, Section 2.4] of $X$ given $Y$ is

$$\tilde{\mathrm{H}}_\infty(X|Y) = -\log\left(\mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{y \in Y} \max_x \Pr[X = x|Y = y]\right).$$

Define Hartley entropy $H_0(X)$ to be the logarithm of the size of the support of $X$, that is $H_0(X) = \log|\{x| \Pr[X = x] > 0\}|$. Define average-case Hartley entropy by averaging the support size:

$$\tilde{H}_0(X|Y) = \log\left(\mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{y \in Y} |\{y| \Pr[X = x|Y = y] > 0\}|\right).$$

**Metric Spaces and Balls** For a metric space $(\mathcal{M}, \mathsf{dis})$, the *(closed) ball of radius $t$ around $w$* is the set of all points within radius $t$, that is, $B_t(w) = \{w'|\mathsf{dis}(w, w') \le t\}$. In this work we consider the Euclidean distance ($L_2$ metric) over vectors defined via $\mathsf{dis}(w, w') = \sqrt{(\sum_{i=1}^n (w_i - w_i')^2)}$.

**Mod space $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n$** Our first result considers vectors in $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n$ in this metric the maximum distance between any two points is $\sqrt{n/2}$ (the distance between $(0, 0, ..., 0)$ and $(1/2, ..., 1/2)$). Volume in this space is

$$|B_t| = \frac{\pi^{n/2} t^n}{\Gamma(n/2 + 1)}. \tag{1}$$

as long as $t \in [0, \sqrt{n}/2]$. Here $\Gamma$ is the $\Gamma$ function. For simplicity we restrict our results to $n = 2k$ where $\Gamma(2k/2 + 1) = k!$.

**Unit Cube** Our second result considers vectors in the unit cube $[0, 1]^n$. In this metric the maximum distance between any two points is $\sqrt{n}$ (the distance between $(0, 0, ..., 0)$ and $(1, 1, ..., 1)$). The volume of a ball in this space depends on whether the point is near a "boundary." We use $|B_t|$ to denote the volume of a ball of radius $t$ around an arbitrary point. This volume is bounded by:

**Lemma 2.1.** *When $n$ is even the volume $|B_t|$ of the ball of radius in $t \in [0, \sqrt{n}]$ in the $L_2$ metric over $[0, 1]^n$ satisfies*

$$\frac{\pi^{n/2} t^n}{(n/2)! 2^n} \le |B_t| \le \frac{\pi^{n/2} t^n}{(n/2)!}.$$

## 2.1 Fuzzy Extractors

Fuzzy extractors derive stable keys from noisy sources.

**Definition 2.2.** *[DORS08] An* $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{W}, \kappa, t, \epsilon)$*-fuzzy extractor is a pair* $(\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Rep})$. $\mathsf{Gen}$ *on input* $w \in \mathcal{M}$ *outputs an extracted string* $\mathsf{key} \in \{0,1\}^{\kappa}$ *and a helper string* $\mathsf{pub} \in \{0,1\}^*$. $\mathsf{Rep}$ *takes* $w' \in \mathcal{M}$ *and* $\mathsf{pub} \in \{0,1\}^*$ *as inputs.* $(\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Rep})$ *have the following properties:*

1. *Correctness: if* $\mathsf{dis}(w, w') \leq t$ *and* $(\mathsf{key}, \mathsf{pub}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(w)$, $\Pr[\mathsf{Rep}(w', \mathsf{pub}) = \mathsf{key}] = 1$.

2. *Security:* $\forall W \in \mathcal{W}$, *if* $(\mathsf{Key}, \mathsf{Pub}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(W)$, $\mathbf{SD}((\mathsf{Key}, \mathsf{Pub}), (U_{\kappa}, \mathsf{Pub})) \leq \epsilon$.

Often designers consider the family containing all distributions with a certain amount of (fuzzy) min-entropy instead of an arbitrary family $\mathcal{W}$. Every element in our family has fuzzy min-entropy so our results hold if the fuzzy extractor secures all distributions with enough fuzzy min-entropy.

Recovering $w$ from $w'$ forms the core of many fuzzy extractor constructions. The primitive that performs just recovery is called a *secure sketch*. We recall the definition from [DORS08, Section 3.1]:

**Definition 2.3.** *An* $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{W}, \tilde{m}, t)$*-secure sketch with error* $\delta$ *is a pair* $(\mathsf{SS}, \mathsf{Rec})$. $\mathsf{SS}$ *on input* $w \in \mathcal{M}$ *returns a bit string* $ss \in \{0,1\}^*$. $\mathsf{Rec}$ *takes an element* $w' \in \mathcal{M}$ *and* $ss \in \{0,1\}^*$. $(\mathsf{SS}, \mathsf{Rec})$ *have the following properties:*

1. *Correctness:* $\forall w, w' \in \mathcal{M}$ *if* $\mathsf{dis}(w, w') \leq t$ *then* $\Pr[\mathsf{Rec}(w', \mathsf{SS}(w)) = w] \geq 1 - \delta$.

2. *Security: for any distribution* $W \in \mathcal{W}$, $\tilde{H}(W|\mathsf{SS}(W)) \geq \tilde{m}$.

**Note:** The functionality of secure sketches ensures that when $w_1, w_2 \in W|\mathsf{SS}(W)$ the points $w_1$ and $w_2$ cannot be too close to each other. In particular, this implies that the set $W|\mathsf{SS}(W)$ is discrete and thus $\tilde{H}(W|\mathsf{SS}(W))$ is well defined. This is not true for fuzzy extractors where $W|P$ can be continuous.

Fuller, Smith, and Reyzin [FRS16] proposed *fuzzy min-entropy* to measure suitability of a noisy distribution for key extraction. Fuzzy min-entropy captures the adversary's success probability when provided with the functionality of the primitive. Fuzzy min-entropy measures ideal security. We adopt this notion:

**Definition 2.4.** *The* $t$*-fuzzy min-entropy of distribution* $W$ *in a metric space* $(\mathcal{M}, \mathsf{dis})$ *is:*

$$\mathrm{H}_{t,\infty}^{\mathtt{fuzz}}(W) = -\log\left(\max_{w'} \int_{w \in \mathcal{M}|\mathsf{dis}(w,w') \leq t} dw\right).$$

*In the above, the measure assigns probability* 1 *to* $\mathcal{M}$ *and for any set* $X$ *assigns probability* $|X|/|\mathcal{M}|$.

Prior work on continuous source fuzzy extractors uses one of two approaches to deal with the fact that entropy does not easily translate to continuous spaces [LSM06, BDHV07, VTO+10]. They either provide security for specific distributions or introduce a quantization step in the definition of security. The first approach is undesirable as it is difficult to model uncertain distributions. In the second approach, security is measured with respect to some quantization of the input space. That is, the metric space is partitioned into different values of $\mathsf{key}$. Li et al. [LSM06, Theorem 6] showed that the choice of quantization may decrease the length of the derived key by a factor linear in the dimension of the space $(\Theta(n))$ compared to the optimal quantization. When the metric space is a bounded subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$ the desired security level is often linear in the dimension. Thus, measuring security only after quantization may obscure whether key derivation is possible. We believe that fuzzy min-entropy is a better measure of a distribution's suitability as it only relies on the functionality of the fuzzy extractor (not its implementation).

# 3 The family of distributions $\mathcal{W}$

In this section we describe the family of distributions $\mathcal{W}$ used in our negative results for both fuzzy extractors and secure sketches. We use different properties of this family in the two negative results, however, all of the properties are achieved by the same family of functions. Our negative results are for an average element of $\mathcal{W}$. Thus, instead of thinking of the adversary as receiving the description of $W$ we think of the adversary receiving $Z$ where $Z$ describes the uniform choice of $W$ from $\mathcal{W}$ and we use $W_Z$ to refer to an individual distribution. We define $Z$ to be the restriction of the uniform distribution to points that have a particular output for a specified element of a hash family. $Z$ consists of two components $z = (\mathsf{A}, \mathsf{h})$ and $W_z = \{w | \mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A}(w) = \mathsf{h}\}$.

The key to both results is showing that it is hard to recover $\mathsf{A}, \mathsf{h}$ from a single $w$ and that the hash has good geometric properties. The required properties are: 1) universality 2) regularity 3) the set $W_z$ minimum distance and 4) a large volume is required to cover every possible output of the hash family for every fixed $\mathsf{A}$.

**The Hash Function**  The hash function we use is the coset of the input point with respect to a random $p$-ary lattice with minimum distance $\geq t$. Let $\mathcal{K}$ be the set of lattices of all $p$-ary lattices $\Lambda_p(\mathsf{A})$ where $\mathsf{A} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{n \times m}$ with minimum distance $t$ defined by $\Lambda_p(\mathsf{A}) = \{y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n : y = \mathsf{A}s \mod p \text{ for some } s \in \mathbb{Z}^m\}$. Define $\mathsf{Hash}_{\mathsf{A} \in \mathcal{A}} : (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n \to (\mathbb{R}/p\mathbb{Z})^m / \Lambda_p(\mathsf{A})$ be defined by

$$x \mapsto [px]_{\Lambda_p(\mathsf{A})}$$

where we understand $[px]_{\Lambda_p(\mathsf{A})}$ to be a coset containing $px$ with respect to the lattice. Scaling a random lattice to the unit cube is known as Construction A and is well studied in the lattice packing literature (Conway and Sloane [CS13]). In our presentation we expand the input point rather than compressing the lattice.

**Note:** The family is stated with respect to the input space $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n$. This metric space will be used in Section 4. Section 5 uses the metric $[0,1]^n$. We only use the first three properties in Section 5 and these properties carry over to $[0,1]^n$.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let $p$ be some prime and let $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $m = \mu n$ for some $\mu \in (0, 1/2)$. For some matrix $\mathsf{A} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{n \times m}$ define the lattice $\Lambda_p(\mathsf{A}) = \{\mathsf{A}x | x \in \mathbb{Z}_p^m\}$. Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the set of all lattices with minimum distance $t' = tp = \tau p \sqrt{n}$ where $\tau = \frac{1}{6p^\mu \sqrt{2e}}$. Define $\mathsf{Hash}_{\mathsf{A} \in \mathcal{A}}(w) = [pw]_\mathsf{A}$. If $p \geq (3\sqrt{2e})^{1/(1-\mu)}$ the following are simultaneously achieved:*

1. *is $2^{-a}$-universal for $a = (n-m) \log p - 1$, that is*

$$\forall v_1 \neq v_2 \in (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n, \Pr_{\mathsf{A} \leftarrow \mathcal{A}}[\mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A}(v_1) = \mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A}(v_2)] \leq 2^{(n-m) \log p - 1},$$

2. *is $p^m$ regular, that is*

$$\forall \mathsf{A} \in \mathcal{A}, h \in \mathtt{Range}(\mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A}), |\mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A}^{-1}(h)| \geq p^m,$$

3. *preimage sets have minimum distance $t$ for $t = \tau \sqrt{n}$, that is*

$$\forall \mathsf{A} \in \mathcal{A}, v_1 \neq v_2, \text{ if } \mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A}(v_1) = \mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A}(v_2) \text{ then } \mathsf{dis}(v_1, v_2) \geq t,$$

4. *and has $p^{-\mu n}$-preimage volume, that is $\forall \mathsf{A} \in \mathcal{A}, V \subseteq (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n$,*

$$\Pr_{h \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \mathtt{Range}(\mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A})} [\mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A}^{-1}(h) \cap V \neq \emptyset] \leq \frac{\mathsf{Vol}(V)}{p^{-\mu n}}.$$

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*Proof.* Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the the set of all $p$-ary lattices of rate $m = \mu n$, length $n$, and minimum distance $t' = tp$. That is,

$$\mathcal{A} = \left\{ \mathsf{A} | \mathsf{A} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{n \times m}, \dim(A) = m, \min_{k \in K - \{0^n\}} \mathsf{dis}(k, 0^n) > t' \right\}.$$

**Universality** We show $2p^{-(m-n)}$-universality by first considering a slightly larger hash family. Let $\mathcal{A}'$ be the set of *all* $m$-dimensional lattices over $[0,1]^n$. That is, consider $\mathcal{A}'$ where

$$\mathcal{A}' = \{ \mathsf{A} | \mathsf{A} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{m \times n}, \dim(\mathsf{A}) = m \}.$$

Define $\mathsf{Hash}_{\mathcal{A}'}$ as a hash function with this larger set of keys where the evaluation is still the coset after multiplication by $p$. This hash function is universal. Fix $v \neq w$ and write

$$\Pr_{\mathsf{K} \in \mathcal{K}'} [\mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{K}(v) = \mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{K}(w)] = \Pr_\mathsf{K} [\mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{K}(v - w) = 0]$$

$$= \Pr_\mathsf{K} [v - w \in \ker \mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{K}]$$

$$= \Pr_\mathsf{K} [[p(v - w)]_\mathsf{K} = 0] = p^{m-n}$$

The last equality follows because the elements of $\mathsf{A} \in \mathcal{A}'$ are all $m$-dimensional subspaces. Thus, every nonzero point is included in the null space with probability $p^{m-n}$. We now show that the set $\mathcal{A}'$ is not much bigger than $\mathcal{A}$.

We now show most $p$-ary lattices of dimension $m$ have minimum distance $> t$. Our theorem is based on the result of Erez et al. which show this construction (known as Construction A) is good for packing in Euclidean space [ELZ05].

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let $n$ be an even integer. Let $p$ be a prime, let $\mu \in (0, 1/2)$ and let $m = \mu n$. Suppose that*

$$t \leq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{3(2e)^{1/2}p^\mu} - \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2p}$$

*Then the defined hash function has minimum distance $t$ with high probability across $\mathcal{A}$. That is,*

$$\Pr_{\mathsf{A} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{A}} \left[ \mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{A} \text{ has minimum distance } t' \right] \geq 1/2.$$

*In particular, when $p \geq (3\sqrt{2e})^{1/(1-\mu)}$ then the conditions are fulfilled when $t = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{6p^\mu \sqrt{2e}}$.*

*Proof.* First note that we consider even $n$, this restriction is done to simplify calculations with the $\Gamma$ function but is not key to the result. By the Theorem statement and Stirling's formula,

$$t \leq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{3(2e)^{1/2}p^\mu} - \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2p}$$

$$\leq \frac{\sqrt[n]{\sqrt{2\pi}(n/2)^{n/2}e^{-(n/2)}}}{3p^\mu \pi^{1/2}} - \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2p}$$

$$\leq \frac{\sqrt[n]{(n/2)!}}{3p^\mu \pi^{1/2}} - \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2p}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt[n]{\Gamma(n/2 + 1)}}{3p^\mu \pi^{1/2}} - \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2p}$$

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Erez et al. [ELZ05, Theorem 1] show that this lattice achieves this packing radius with good probability. In particular, define $r = \frac{\sqrt[n]{\Gamma(n/2+1)}}{p^\mu \pi^{1/2}}$ and $d = \sqrt{n}/(2p)$. Our requirement on $t$ implies that $t \leq r/3 - d/2$. Their proof shows that,

$$\Pr_{A \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{A}} \left[ \mathsf{Hash}_A \text{ has minimum distance } t' \right] \geq 1 - \left( \frac{2t + d}{r} \right)^n$$

$$\geq 1 - \left( \frac{2(r/3 - d/2) + d}{r} \right)^n$$

$$= 1 - (2/3)^n$$

The fact that this value is at least $1/2$ follows as $n$ is even. We note that when $p^{1-\mu} \geq 3(2e)^{1/2}$ then for the maximum value of $t$,

$$t = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{3(2e)^{1/2}p^\mu} - \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2p} \geq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{3(2e)^{1/2}p^\mu} - \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2p^{1-\mu}p^\mu}$$

$$\geq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{3(2e)^{1/2}p^\mu} - \frac{\sqrt{n}}{6(2e)^{1/2}p^\mu} \geq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{6(2e)^{1/2}p^\mu}.$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 3.2. □

**Regularity**   To show $p^m$-regularity, fix $\mathsf{K}, h$ and write

$$|\mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{K}^{-1}(h)| \geq |\ker \mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{K}| = |\{v : \mathsf{Hash}_\mathsf{K}(v) = 0\}| \geq p^m$$

Since there are $m$ linearly independent lattice vectors in $\mathbb{Z}_p^m$ and $p$ possible coefficients that produce distinct vectors (by linear independence).

**Minimum distance**   This condition is immediately implied by the minimum distance of the lattice.

**Preimage Volume**   Finally, note that any $\mu n$ dimensional lattice has $p^{\mu n}$ points. The Voronoi region of every lattice point in $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n$ is the same. Since the volume of the unit cube is 1 this means each region has volume $p^{-\mu n}$. This completes the proof that a hash function with the required parameters exists and completes the proof of Theorem 3.1. □

## 4   No fuzzy extractor can secure $\mathcal{W}$

We now prove it is impossible to build a fuzzy extractor that secures $\mathcal{W}$. As discussed in the introduction we use $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n$ as the input space equipped with the Euclidean metric.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let $\gamma \geq 1$ be a constant. Let $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n$. Let $\mu \in [0, 1/2)$ be a constant and define $m = \mu n$. Then there exists a family $\mathcal{W}$ such that, for all $W \in \mathcal{W}$, $\mathrm{H}_{t,\infty}^{\mathsf{fuzz}} = \mathrm{H}_\infty(W) \geq m$. Let $(\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Rep})$ be a $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{W}, \kappa, t, \epsilon)$-fuzzy-extractor with perfect correctness with noise rate $\tau \overset{d}{=} t/\sqrt{n}$ where the following conditions hold:*

1. *Let $p$ be a prime integer parameter such that $p \geq (3\sqrt{2e})^{1/(1-\mu)}$.*

2. *Noise rate* $\tau = \frac{1}{6p^\mu \sqrt{2e}}$

3. *The key length*

$$\kappa \geq 1 + \max\left\{0, \log\gamma + n\left(\log p^\mu - \log(\frac{6\sqrt{e} + \sqrt{\pi}}{6\sqrt{e}})\right)\right\}.$$

*Then* $\epsilon \geq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{e}{2\sqrt{2\pi\gamma}}$.

We show the impossibility for an average member of $\mathcal{W}$. Recall that we think of the distribution $W \in \mathcal{W}$ as being described by an auxiliary variable $Z$ that is a pair $(\mathsf{A}, \mathsf{h})$ where $W_z = \{w | \mathsf{Hash}_{\mathsf{A}}(w) = \mathsf{h}\}$. The hash function we use is $\mathsf{Hash}_{\mathsf{A}\in\mathcal{A}} : (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n \to (\mathbb{R}/p\mathbb{Z})^m/\Lambda_p(\mathsf{A})$ be defined by

$$x \mapsto [px]_{\Lambda_p(\mathsf{A})}$$

where $[px]_{\Lambda_p(\mathsf{A})}$ the coset of the input point with respect to $\mathsf{A}$. The conditions of Theorem 4.1 implies those of Theorem 3.1 and thus we can use Theorem 3.1. For this proof we need the regularity, minimum distance, and preimage volume conditions. By the $2^m$-regularity and minimum distance properties of $\mathsf{Hash}$, $\forall z \in Z, \mathrm{H}_\infty(W_z) = \mathrm{H}^{\mathtt{fuzz}}_{t,\infty}(W_z) = m$.

We now want to show that for a random $z \leftarrow Z$, if $(\mathsf{key}, \mathsf{pub})$ is the output of $\mathsf{Gen}(W_z)$, then $\mathsf{key}$ can be easily distinguished from uniform in the presence of $\mathsf{pub}$ and $z$. The outline for the proof is as follows:

- In the absence of information about $z$, the value $w$ is uniform.

- $\mathsf{pub}$ partitions the key space (since there is perfect correctness).

- Each part is the partition created by $\mathsf{pub}$ is bounded in size.

- Valid $w$ can only come from the interior of a part (by correctness of $\mathsf{Rep}$, every candidate input $w$ to $\mathsf{Gen}$ must have all of its neighbors $w'$ produce the same output of $\mathsf{Rep}(w', \mathsf{pub})$).

- The volume of the interior of a part is smaller than the volume of a part.

- For many parts have interior volume smaller than the preimage volume of the lattice (the volume of the Voronoi region of the lattice).

- Many elements $W \in \mathcal{W}$ have no point in the interior of the part.

- By averaging across parts, the average distribution $W$ has no points in the interior of many parts.

- It is possible to distinguish a random key from one produced by $\mathsf{Gen}$ by checking if it comes from a part whose interior has no preimage in $W$.

*Proof.* We now proceed with the formal proof. The following lemma bounds the volume of the smallest parts.

**Lemma 4.2.** *Suppose* $\mathcal{M}$ *is* $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n$ *with the Euclidean metric,* $\kappa \geq 2$, $0 \leq t \leq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2}$, *and* $\epsilon \geq 0$. *Suppose* $(\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Rep})$ *is a* $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{W}, \kappa, t, \epsilon)$-*fuzzy extractor for distribution family* $\mathcal{W}$ *over* $\mathcal{M}$. *For any fixed* $\mathsf{pub}$, *there is a set* $\mathsf{GoodKey}_{\mathsf{pub}} \subset \{0,1\}^\kappa$ *of size* $2^{\kappa-1}$ *such that,*

$$\forall \mathsf{key} \in \mathsf{GoodKey}_{\mathsf{pub}}, \mathsf{Vol}|\{v \in \mathcal{M}|(\mathsf{key}, \mathsf{pub}) \in \mathrm{supp}(\mathsf{Gen}(v))\}| \leq 2^{-\kappa+1}.$$

*Proof of Lemma 4.2.* Recall that $\mathsf{Vol}([0,1]^n) = 1$. The set $\mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}$ consists of the $2^{\kappa-1}$ keys with the smallest volume (breaking ties arbitrarily). Note that for

$$\forall \mathsf{key} \in \mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}, \mathsf{Vol}(\{v \in \mathcal{M}|\mathsf{Rep}(v, \mathsf{pub}) = \mathsf{key})\}) \leq 2^{-\kappa+1}.$$

If not, then $\cup_\mathsf{key}\mathsf{Vol}(Q_\mathsf{pub,key}) > 1$ because for every $\mathsf{key} \notin \mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}$,

$$\mathsf{Vol}(\{v \in \mathcal{M}|\mathsf{Rep}(v, \mathsf{pub}) = \mathsf{key})\}) > 2^{-\kappa+1}.$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 4.2. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\quad\square$

We now proceed to show on $\mathsf{key} \in \mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}$ the size of the interior is bounded. By perfect correctness of $\mathsf{Rep}$, the input $w$ to $\mathsf{Gen}$ has the following property: for all $w'$ within distance $t$ of $w$, $\mathsf{Rep}(w', \mathsf{pub}) = \mathsf{Rep}(w, \mathsf{pub})$. Thus, if we partition $\mathcal{M}$ according to the output of $\mathsf{Rep}$, the true $w$ is $t$ away from the boundary of a part. Interior sets are small, which means the set of possible of $w$ values is small. ($\mathsf{Rep}$ has a deterministic output even if the algorithm is randomized, so this partition is well-defined.)

To formalize this intuition, fix $\mathsf{pub}$ and partition $\mathcal{M}$ according to the output of $\mathsf{Rep}(\cdot, \mathsf{pub})$ as follows: let $Q_\mathsf{pub,key} = \{w' \in \mathcal{M}|\mathsf{Rep}(w', \mathsf{pub}) = \mathsf{key}\}$. Note that there are $2^\kappa$ keys and thus $2^\kappa$ parts $Q_\mathsf{pub,key}$. For the remainder of the proof we focus on elements in $\mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}$. As explained above, if $w$ is the input to $\mathsf{Gen}$, then every point $w'$ within distance $t$ of $w$ must be in the same part $Q_\mathsf{pub,key}$ as $w$, by correctness of $\mathsf{Rep}$. Thus, $w$ must come from the interior of some $Q_\mathsf{pub,key}$, where interior is defined as

$$\mathsf{Inter}(Q_\mathsf{pub,key}) = \{w \in Q_\mathsf{pub,key}|\forall w' \text{ s.t. } \mathsf{dis}(w, w') \leq t, w' \in Q_\mathsf{pub,key}\}.$$

We now use the isoperimetric inequality to bound the size of $\mathsf{Inter}(Q_\mathsf{pub,key})$. The bounds on $\kappa$ from the theorem statement and the volume of the Voronoi region of the lattices contained in $\mathcal{W}$ are crucial for this proof.

**Lemma 4.3.** *Define all parameters as in Theorem 4.1. Then for any fixed*

$$\forall p, \forall \mathsf{key} \in \mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}, \mathsf{Vol}(\mathsf{Inter}(Q_\mathsf{p,key})) \leq \frac{e}{\sqrt{2\pi} \cdot \gamma \cdot p^{\mu n}}.$$

*Proof of Lemma 4.3.* Fix some $\mathsf{pub}$ and some $\mathsf{key} \in \mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}$ and consider $Q_\mathsf{p,key}$. Recall that

$$\kappa \geq 1 + \log(\gamma) + n\left(\log p^\mu - \log(\frac{6\sqrt{e} + \sqrt{\pi}}{6\sqrt{e}})\right).$$

By substitution one has,

$$\mathsf{Vol}(Q_\mathsf{pub,key}) \leq 2^{-\kappa+1} \leq \frac{1}{(\gamma) \cdot 2^{n\left(\log p^\mu - \log(\frac{6\sqrt{e}+\sqrt{\pi}}{6\sqrt{e}})\right)}} = \frac{2^{n\log(\frac{6\sqrt{e}+\sqrt{\pi}}{6\sqrt{e}})}}{(\gamma) \cdot p^{\mu n \cdot}}.$$

Define $\alpha$ to be the radius of a ball with that volume. Using Equation 1 we have that

$$\frac{\pi^{n/2}\alpha^n}{(n/2)!} \leq \frac{2^{n\log(\frac{6\sqrt{e}+\sqrt{\pi}}{6\sqrt{e}})}}{(\gamma)p^{\mu n}}$$

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Rearranging terms gives a bound on $\alpha$:

$$\alpha \leq \frac{\sqrt[n]{(n/2)!}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt[n]{\gamma} \cdot p^{\mu}} \cdot \left(\frac{6\sqrt{e} + \sqrt{\pi}}{6\sqrt{e}}\right)$$

The isoperimetric inequality says that the interior of this part is maximized in the setting when $Q_{\mathsf{pub,key}}$ is a ball. Thus, for all $\mathsf{key} \in \mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}$

$$\mathsf{Vol}(\mathsf{Inter}(Q_{p,\mathsf{key}})) \leq \mathsf{Vol}(B_{\alpha-t}).$$

We know the quantity $\alpha - t$ is bounded by:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\alpha - t &\leq \frac{\sqrt[n]{(n/2)!}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt[n]{\gamma} \cdot p^{\mu}} \cdot \left(\frac{6\sqrt{e} + \sqrt{\pi}}{6\sqrt{e}}\right) - \frac{1}{6\sqrt{2e}p^{\mu}}\sqrt{n} \\
&\leq \frac{1}{p^{\mu}} \left(\frac{\sqrt[n]{(n/2)!}}{\sqrt[n]{\gamma}\sqrt{\pi}} \cdot (\frac{6\sqrt{e} + \sqrt{\pi}}{6\sqrt{e}}) - \frac{1}{6\sqrt{e}}\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}\right) & (2) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{p^{\mu}} \left(\frac{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{(\frac{n+1}{2})} \cdot e^{(\frac{1}{n}-\frac{1}{2})}}{\sqrt[n]{\gamma}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{1}{6\sqrt{e}}\right) - \frac{1}{6\sqrt{e}}\sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}\right) & (3) \\
&\leq \frac{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{(\frac{n+1}{2})} e^{\frac{1}{n}-\frac{1}{2}}}{\sqrt{\pi}p^{\mu}\gamma^{1/n}} & (4)
\end{aligned}
$$

Here equation 3 follows from 2 by use of Stirling's upper bound that $(n/2)! \leq e(n/2)^{n/2+1/2} \cdot e^{-n/2}$. As $\gamma \geq 1$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, it is always true that

$$\frac{e^2 n}{2} \leq (\gamma)^2 e^n.$$

Thus, Equation 4 follows by noting that the quantity

$$\frac{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2n}} e^{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2n}}}{\gamma^{1/n}} \leq 1$$

This gives us the desired bound on the volume of this interior:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathsf{Vol}(\mathsf{Inter}(Q_{p,\mathsf{key}})) &\leq \frac{\pi^{n/2} \left(\frac{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{(\frac{n+1}{2})} e^{\frac{1}{n}-\frac{1}{2}}}{\sqrt{\pi}p^{\mu}\gamma^{1/n}}\right)^{n}}{(n/2)!} \\
&\leq \frac{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{\frac{n+1}{2}} p^{-\mu n} \cdot e \cdot e^{\frac{-n}{2}} \gamma^{-1}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{\frac{n+1}{2}} e^{\frac{-n}{2}}} \\
&= \frac{e}{\sqrt{2\pi} \cdot \gamma \cdot p^{\mu n}}.
\end{aligned}
$$

Here we use Stirling's lower bound that $(n/2)! \geq \sqrt{2\pi}(n/2)^{n/2+1/2}e^{-n/2}$. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.3. $\qquad\square$
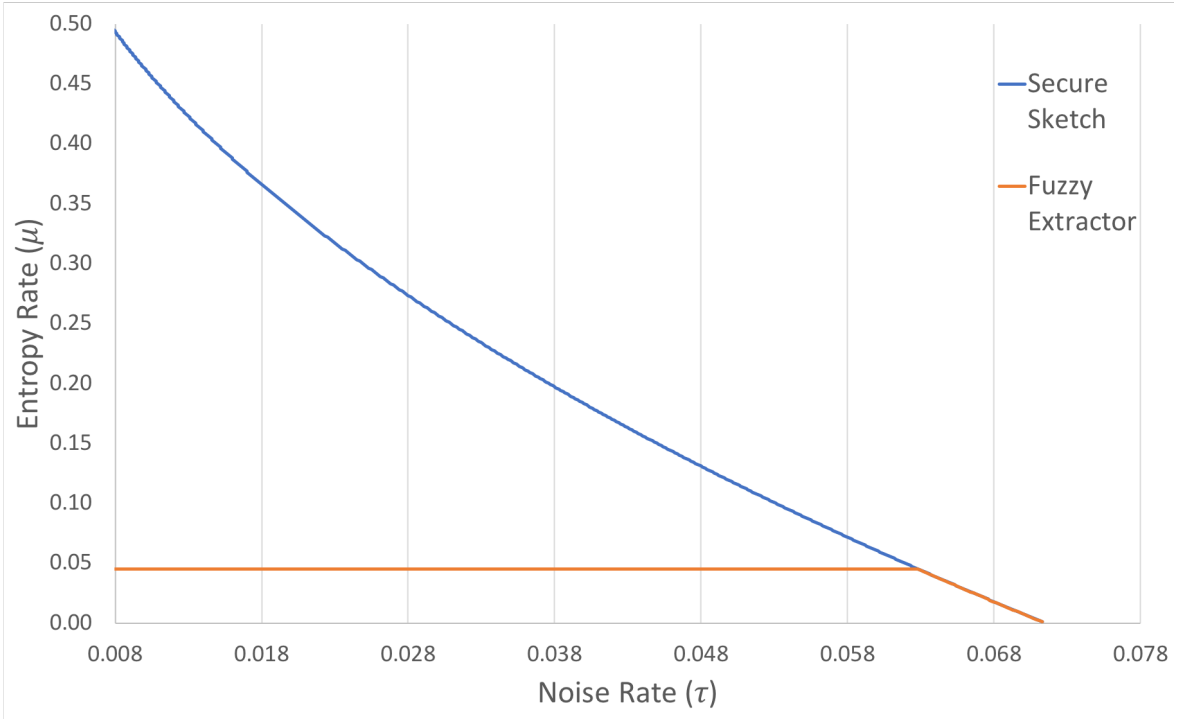
Figure 1: Tradeoff between entropy rate $\mu$ and noise rate $\tau$ for both fuzzy extractors (red) and secure sketches (blue). Illustration of parameters in Theorem 4.1 and Theorem 5.1. In this analysis we assume that there always exists a prime of size exactly $3(2e)^{1/(1-\mu)}$. The allowed noise rate $\tau$ may be reduced to find such a prime. Recall that Bertrand's postulate state's that a prime exists between $n$ and $2n$ for any integer $n > 1$.

Lemma 4.3 implies that for each $\mathsf{key} \in \mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}$, the interior $\mathsf{Vol}(\mathsf{Inter}(Q_{p,\mathsf{key}}))$ is smaller than the volume of the Voronoi region by a factor of $\frac{e}{\sqrt{2\pi\gamma}}$. This means that for an average $W \in \mathcal{W}$,

$$\Pr_{W \leftarrow \mathcal{W}, \kappa \xleftarrow{\$} \mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}} [\mathsf{Inter}(Q_{\mathsf{pub},\mathsf{key}}) \cap W = \emptyset] \geq 1 - \frac{e}{\sqrt{2\pi\gamma}}.$$

Thus, on average across $z = (k, h)$ a $1 - \frac{e}{\sqrt{2\pi\gamma}}$ fraction of keys in $\mathsf{GoodKey_{pub}}$ (that is, overall $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{e}{2\sqrt{2\pi\gamma}}$ fraction of keys cannot be produced). Define the set $\mathsf{Implausible} = \{\mathsf{key}, \mathsf{pub}, z | \mathsf{Inter}(Q_{\mathsf{pub},\mathsf{key}}) \cap W_z = \emptyset\}$. Triples drawn by creating a key using the fuzzy extractor never come from the set implausible. However, a uniformly random key will land in this set with probability $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{e}{2\sqrt{2\pi\gamma}}$. Thus, $\epsilon \geq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{e}{2\sqrt{2\pi\gamma}}$. This completes the proof of Theorem 4.1. $\qquad\square$

**Parameter discussion:** There are settings of $\mu, \tau, \kappa = \Theta(1)$ such that the statistical distance $\epsilon$ is a constant. Taking $\log p^{-\mu} \leq \log(\frac{6\sqrt{e}+\sqrt{\pi}}{6\sqrt{e}}) \approx -.1334$ implies that $\kappa$ only needs to satisfy $\kappa \geq 1 + \log \gamma$. Substituting $p \geq (3\sqrt{2e})^{1/(1-\mu)}$ and ignoring factors due to finding a prime $p$ this condition holds when $\mu \leq .045$. When $\gamma = 4$ then $\epsilon \geq .35$ (when $\kappa \geq 3$). The full setting of achievable parameter ranges for a constant $\kappa, \epsilon$ are in Figure 1.

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# 5    No Secure Sketch can secure $\mathcal{W}$

We now show no secure sketch can be secure for an average member of $\mathcal{W}$. We consider the metric space $[0,1]^n$ but we can embed other bounded, continuous spaces of finite dimension into the unit cube.

**Theorem 5.1.** *Let $\mathcal{M} = [0,1]^n$ with the Euclidean metric* dis *where $n$ is even positive integer. Let $\mu \in [0, \frac{1}{2})$ be a constant and define $m \stackrel{\mathrm{d}}{=} \mu n$. There is a family $\mathcal{W}$ where for all $W \in \mathcal{W}$, $\mathrm{H}_{t,\infty}^{\mathsf{fuzz}}(W) = \mathrm{H}_\infty(W) \geq m$, such that for any $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{W}, \tilde{m}, t)$-secure sketch with error $\delta$, we have $\tilde{m} \leq 3$ provided the following conditions hold:*

1. *$n \geq 2(h_2(2\delta) + \log e)$. Note that $n \geq 6$ suffices.*

2. *Let $p$ be a prime integer parameter such that $p \geq (3\sqrt{2e})^{\frac{1}{(1-\mu)}}$*

3. *Define the* noise rate *$\tau \stackrel{\mathrm{d}}{=} t/\sqrt{n}$ where $\tau = \frac{1}{6p^\mu \sqrt{2e}}$.*

4. *The error parameter $\delta$ satisfies*
$$\delta \in \left[0, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\log(1/\tau)}{2(1-\mu)\log p}\right)$$

**Parameters:**    As an example, $\mu = .3$ implies that $p \geq 129$, so if we consider $p = 131$, we have that $\tau \leq .017$ and $\delta \leq .08$. That is, there is a family with constant fuzzy entropy, constant error rate, and constant error where no good secure sketch exists. The trade-off between $\mu$ and $\tau$ is illustrated in Figure 1.

**Interpreting the result:**    A secure sketch "discretizes" the input space into regions that produce a consistent value. Thus it is not surprising that, like the discrete case, a continuous secure sketch is not always possible. As stated in the introduction, the geometry of the Euclidean metric is more challenging than the Hamming metric due to the slower growth of volume.

*Proof of Theorem 5.1.* Recall that we use the family described in Theorem 3.1, the uniform distribution over the support of a coset h of a random lattice with minimum distance $t$. In this proof we will use the fact that for each $W \in \mathcal{W}$ the hash family is universal, regular, and has minimum distance.

We will define $Z = (\mathsf{A}, \mathsf{h})$ to be the pair of the lattice and coset and consider $\mathcal{W} = \{W_z\}$. Let $n, m, \mu, t, \tau$ and $p$ be defined as in the theorem statement. The core of the proof is showing two properties of this hash function:

1. The family restricted to a hash function and output value has fuzzy min-entropy. This is because the hash function is regular and has minimum distance.

2. The adversary learns from sketch value $\mathsf{SS}(W_Z)$ and *new* information by seeing the hash function and value. This is because the hash function is universal.

The first property is immediate, by the $2^{m \log p}$-regularity and minimum distance properties of $\mathsf{Hash}_\mathcal{A}$, $\mathrm{H}_\infty(W_z) = \mathrm{H}_{t,\infty}^{\mathsf{fuzz}}(W_z) = m \log p \geq m$. We now proceed to show that some values of sketch that occur with good probability decrease the number of possible input values.

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let $\mathcal{M}$ denote the Euclidean mod-space $[0,1]^n$ and $|B_t|$ denote the volume of a sphere of radius $t$ in $\mathcal{M}$. Suppose $(\mathsf{SS}, \mathsf{Rec})$ is a $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{W}, \tilde{m}, t)$ secure sketch with error $\delta$, for some distribution family $\mathcal{W}$ over $\mathcal{M}$. Then for every $v \in \mathcal{M}$ there exists a set $\mathsf{GoodSketch}_v$ such that $\Pr[\mathsf{SS}(v) \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_v] \geq 1/2$ and for any fixed $\mathrm{ss}$,*

$$\log |\{v \in \mathcal{M} | \mathrm{ss} \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_v\}| \leq \frac{h_2(2\delta) - \log |B_t|}{1 - 2\delta},$$

*and, therefore, for any distribution $D_\mathcal{M}$ over $\mathcal{M}$,*

$$\mathrm{H}_0(D_\mathcal{M} | \mathrm{ss} \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_{D_\mathcal{M}}) \leq \frac{h_2(2\delta) - \log |B_t|}{1 - 2\delta}.$$

*Proof.* For any $v \in M$, define $\mathsf{Neigh}_t(v)$ be the uniform distribution on the ball of radius $t$ around $v$ and let

$$\mathsf{GoodSketch}_v = \{\mathrm{ss} | \Pr_{v' \leftarrow \mathsf{Neigh}_t(v)} [\mathsf{Rec}(v', ss) \neq v] \leq 2\delta]\}.$$

We prove the lemma by showing two propositions. The first is a simple application of the Markov inequality shown by Fuller et al. [FRS16, Proposition D.2]

**Proposition 5.3.** *For $v \in \mathcal{M}$, $\Pr[\mathsf{SS}(v) \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_v] \geq 1/2$.*

To finish the proof of Lemma 5.2, we show that the set $\{v \in \mathcal{M} | ss \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_v\}$ forms an error-correcting code and bound the size of the code.

**Definition 5.4.** *We say that a set $C$ is an $(t, \delta)$-Shannon code if there exists a (possibly randomized) function $\mathsf{Decode}$ such that for all $c \in C$,*

$$\Pr_{c' \leftarrow \mathsf{Neigh}_t(c)} [\mathsf{Decode}(c') \neq c] \leq \delta.$$

The set $\{v \in \mathcal{M} | ss \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_v\}$ forms $(t, 2\delta)$ Shannon code if we set $\mathsf{Decode}(y) = \mathsf{Rec}(y, ss)$. We now bound the size of such a code.

**Lemma 5.5.** *If $C \subset [0,1]^n$ is a $(t, \delta)$-Shannon code for any $t > 0$, then $|C| < \infty$ and*

$$\log |C| \leq \frac{h_2(\delta) - \log |B_t|}{1 - \delta} \tag{5}$$

*Proof of Lemma 5.5.* First we show $|C| < \infty$. Suppose for contradiction that $|C| = \infty$. For any $\epsilon > 0$, we can find $p, q \in C$ such that $|p - q| < \epsilon$. Let $B_t(p), B_t(q)$ be the $t$-radius balls centered on $p, q$ respectively. Then we can choose $p, q, \epsilon$ such that $|B_t(p) \cap B_t(q)| \geq 2\delta$ and $|p - q| < \epsilon < t$. Let $R$ be a uniform distribution on $B_t(p) \cap B_t(q)$. Clearly

$$\Pr[\mathsf{dis}(R, p) \leq t] \Pr[\mathsf{dis}(R, q) \leq t] = 1.$$

If $\Pr[\mathsf{Decode}(R) \neq p] \leq 1/2$, we necessarily have $\Pr[\mathsf{Decode}(R) \neq q] \geq 1/2$. Without loss of generality assume that $\Pr[\mathsf{Decode}(R) \neq q] \geq 1/2$. Then we have that

$$\Pr_{c' \leftarrow \mathsf{Neigh}_t(q)} [\mathsf{Decode}(c') \neq c] \geq \Pr_{c' \leftarrow R} [\mathsf{Decode}(c') \neq c] \Pr[c' \in R] > \frac{2\delta}{2} = \delta.$$

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By contradiction, we know $|C| < \infty$.

This we can assume that $C$ is finite. Let $X$ be a uniform distribution on $C$ and $Y$ a uniform distribution on the $t$-radius ball centered on $X$. Here we use a variant of Fano's inequality [Fan61] when $Y$ is a continuous random variable. This formulation is different from most continuous formulation's of Fano's inequality which point the Euclidean norm of the estimate [CD09, Lemma 2]. We do not prove this formulation, the proof is the same as the standard discrete formulation of Fano's which only relies on $\hat{X}$ and $X$.

**Lemma 5.6.** *Let $X$ be a discrete random variable on $\mathcal{M}$, $Y$ be a continuous random variable on $\mathcal{M}$ with $\hat{X}(Y)$ a discrete estimator of $X$ based on $Y$. Then,*

$$H_1(X|\hat{X}) \leq h_2(\delta) + \delta(\log|C|).$$

*where $\delta = \Pr[X \neq \hat{X}]$.*

In particular, we consider the following estimator $\hat{X}(y)$, if there exists a single $x \in C$ such that $\mathsf{dis}(x, y) \leq t$ output $x$. If there are multiple $x_i$ such that $\forall i, \mathsf{dis}(x_i, y) \leq t$ then output a random $y$. Then we have that

$$H_1(X|\hat{X}) \geq H_0(X|\hat{X}) \geq \log\left(\frac{(|C| * |B_t|)}{|[0,1]^n}\right) = \log|C| + \log|B_t|.$$

Here the second inequality proceeds by noting that that $|C| * |B_t|/|[0,1]^n$ measures the thickness of the space and thus the average number of possible points $x \in C$ within distance $t$ for a uniform point $y$ around a codeword. Thickness is usually used to describe the quality of a covering radius. Here by thickness we simply mean the total volumes of the balls of radius $t$ divided by the size of the space. Combining these two facts yields that Equation 5. This completes the proof of Lemma 5.5. $\qquad\square$

Lemma 5.2 follows from Lemma 5.5. $\qquad\square$

Since the hash is universal, entropy drops further when the adversary learns $\mathcal{A}, \mathsf{h}$. Let $\mathsf{M}$ denote the uniform distribution on $\mathcal{M}$ and $K$ denote the uniform distribution on $\mathcal{K}$. We first recall that a universal hash function reduces entropy of any distribution with small enough support:

**Lemma 5.7.** *[FRS16, Lemma B.2] Let $L$ be a distribution. Let $\{\mathsf{Hash}_{\mathcal{A}}\}_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{K}}$ be a family of $2^{-a}$-universal hash functions on the support of $L$. Assume $\mathcal{A}$ is uniform in $\mathcal{K}$ and independent of $L$. Then*

$$\tilde{H}_0(L|\mathcal{A}, \mathsf{Hash}_{\mathcal{A}}(L)) < \log(1 + |\operatorname{supp}(L)| \cdot 2^{-a}) \leq \max(1, 1 + H_0(L) - a).$$

Applying Lemma 5.7 to Lemma 5.2, we get that for any ss,

$$\tilde{H}_0(\mathsf{M}|\mathsf{ss} \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_{\mathsf{M}}, \mathcal{A}, \mathsf{Hash}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathsf{M}))$$
$$< \max\left(1, 2 + \frac{h_2(2\delta) - \log|B_t|}{1 - 2\delta} - (n - m)\log p\right). \tag{6}$$

We note that $\tilde{H}_0$ serves as a bound on $\tilde{H}_\infty$ (see [FRS16, Lemma D.5]). That is,

$$\tilde{H}_\infty(\mathsf{M}|\mathsf{ss} \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_{\mathsf{M}}, \mathcal{A}, \mathsf{Hash}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathsf{M}))$$
$$< \max\left(1, 2 + \frac{h_2(2\delta) - \log|B_t|}{1 - 2\delta} - (n - m)\log p\right).$$

We need just two more lemma technical lemmas:

**Lemma 5.8.** *[FRS16, Lemma D.6] For any pair of random variables $(X, Y)$ and event $\eta$ that is a (possibly randomized) function of $(X, Y)$, $\tilde{H}_\infty(X|\eta, Y) \geq \tilde{H}_\infty(X|Y) - \log 1/\Pr[\eta]$.*

The second technical lemma bounds the size of ball in the Euclidean space:

**Lemma 5.9.** *Let $p$ be a prime such that $p \geq (3\sqrt{2e})^{1/(1-\mu)}$ then*

$$\alpha \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{h_2(2\delta) - \log|B_t|}{1 - 2\delta} - (1 - \mu)n \log p \leq 0.$$

*Proof.* Due to Lemma 2.1 and Stirling's formula, we have that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\alpha &= \frac{h_2(2\delta) - \log|B_t|}{1 - 2\delta} - (1 - \mu)n \log p \\
&\leq \frac{h_2(2\delta) + n + \log((n/2)!) - n/2 \log \pi - n \log t}{1 - 2\delta} - (1 - \mu)n \log p \\
&\leq \frac{h_2(2\delta) + n(1 - \frac{\log \pi}{2}) + \log e(n/2)^{n/2+1/2} e^{-n/2} - n \log t}{1 - 2\delta} - (1 - \mu)n \log p \\
&= \frac{h_2(2\delta) + \log e + n(1 - \frac{\log \pi}{2} - \frac{\log e}{2}) + \log(n/2)^{n/2+1/2} - n \log t}{1 - 2\delta} - (1 - \mu)n \log p \quad (7) \\
&\leq \frac{h_2(2\delta) + \log e + \frac{n}{2} \log \frac{n}{2} - n \log t}{1 - 2\delta} - (1 - \mu)n \log p \quad (8) \\
&= \frac{h_2(2\delta) + \log e + n \log \frac{(n/2)^{1/2}}{\tau\sqrt{n}}}{1 - 2\delta} - (1 - \mu)n \log p \\
&= \frac{h_2(2\delta) + \log e + n \log \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}\tau}}{1 - 2\delta} - (1 - \mu)n \log p \\
&\leq \frac{n \log \frac{1}{\tau}}{1 - 2\delta} - \frac{(1 - 2\delta)(1 - \mu)n \log p}{1 - 2\delta} \quad (9) \\
&\leq \frac{n \log \frac{1}{\tau}}{1 - 2\delta} - \frac{\frac{\log(1/(\tau))}{(1-\mu)\log p}(1 - \mu)n \log p}{1 - 2\delta} \quad (10) \\
&\leq \frac{n \log \frac{1}{\tau}}{1 - 2\delta} - \frac{n \log \frac{1}{\tau}}{(1 - 2\delta)} = 0
\end{aligned}
$$

Where Equation 8 follows from Equation 7 as $n(1 - \log \pi/2 - \log e/2) + 1/2 \log n/2 \leq 0$ for all even positive integers. Equation 9 follows by the fact that $n \geq 2(h_2(2\delta) + \log e)$ by assumption. Equation 10 follows by the assumption on $\delta$. $\qquad \square$

Putting these facts together allows us to conclude the theorem statement:

$$\tilde{\mathrm{H}}_\infty(W_Z|Z, \mathsf{SS}(W_Z)) = \tilde{\mathrm{H}}_\infty(\mathsf{M}|\mathsf{SS}(\mathsf{M}), \mathcal{A}, \mathsf{Hash}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathsf{M}))$$

$$\leq \log \frac{1}{\Pr[\mathsf{SS}(\mathsf{M}) \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_{\mathsf{M}}]} +$$
$$\tilde{\mathrm{H}}_\infty(\mathsf{M}|\mathrm{ss}\ \mathrm{s.t.}\ \mathrm{ss} = \mathsf{SS}(\mathsf{M})\ \mathrm{and}\ \mathrm{ss} \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_{\mathsf{M}}, \mathcal{A}, \mathsf{Hash}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathsf{M}))$$

$$\leq \log \frac{1}{\Pr[\mathsf{SS}(\mathsf{M}) \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_{\mathsf{M}}]} +$$
$$\tilde{H}_0(\mathsf{M}|\mathrm{ss}\ \mathrm{s.t.}\ \mathrm{ss} = \mathsf{SS}(\mathsf{M})\ \mathrm{and}\ \mathrm{ss} \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_{\mathsf{M}}, \mathcal{A}, \mathsf{Hash}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathsf{M}))$$

$$< \log \frac{1}{\Pr[\mathsf{SS}(\mathsf{M}) \in \mathsf{GoodSketch}_{\mathsf{M}}]} + \max\left(1, 2 + \frac{h_2(2\delta) - \log|B_t|}{1 - 2\delta} - m\log p\right)$$

$$< \log 2 + \max\left(1, 2 + \frac{h_2(2\delta) - \log|B_t|}{1 - 2\delta} - m\log p\right)$$

$$\leq \log 2 + \max\left(1, 2 + \frac{h_2(2\delta) - \log|B_t|}{1 - 2\delta} - (1-\mu)n\log p\right)$$

$$\leq \log 2 + \max(1, 2)$$

$$\leq 3$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 5.1. □

# 6  Conclusion

Our two results show that model inaccuracy may be a major hurdle to constructing a continuous source fuzzy extractor. There are three ways to overcome our results:

1. Our results use distributions $W$ that have fuzzy min-entropy at most $.5n$ and algorithms that correct $t \approx .07\sqrt{n}$ errors (see Figure 1). One may be able to avoid these results when more fuzzy min-entropy is present or less error tolerance is required.

2. One could use properties of a distribution beyond (fuzzy) min-entropy. For example, Li et al. [LSM06] assumed that dimensions were independently distributed.

3. Some discrete fuzzy extractors provide computational security [FMR13, CFP+16, HRvD+17, ACEK17, ABC+18, WLH18, WL18]. One could provide computational security instead of information-theoretic security. We are not aware of any prior continuous-source fuzzy extractors that argue computational security.

For secure sketches we considered the metric space $[0,1]^n$. Our results can be extended to other bounded subsets of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Our fuzzy extractor result instead considers $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n$. This is due to a technical limitation of the proof technique. We show that the volume of the interior of $Q_{\mathsf{key}}$ is smaller than the volume of $Q_{\mathsf{key}}$. Roughly, maximum security drops by a factor proportional to the ratio between these volumes. To get a $o(n)$ bound on key length this ratio must be exponential in the dimension $n$. In the metric space $[0,1]^n$ most parts of $Q_{\mathsf{key}}$ can be on a boundary of the unit cube. In the worst case these objects can be 1-dimension so their interior volume is only a constant factor smaller than their total volume.

We consider this to be an artifact of working with the unit cube. If a fuzzy extractor only secures points on the boundary then the data does not simultaneously vary in $n$ dimensions. Since extraneous dimensions

complicate error-correction, a system designer would first reduce dimensionality (see for example [LPV11]) to find a representation that varies across all dimensions. This transformed distribution would be used for stable key derivation. In the "mod" space there are no boundary points, the entire region is "$n$-dimensional."

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