

An Improved Upper Bound for the Most Informative Boolean Function Conjecture

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The Most Informative Boolean Function Conjecture

- $\mathbf{X} \sim \text{Unif}(\{0, 1\}^n)$ (n i.i.d. Bernoulli $(\frac{1}{2})$ RVs)
- $Z_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\alpha)$, i.i.d.
- $Y_i = X_i \oplus Z_i$, $\mathbf{Y} = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$

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Courtade-Kumar Conjecture [IT'14]

for all boolean functions $f : \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto \{-1, 1\}$

$$I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq 1 - h(\alpha)$$

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In other words: no function is better than $f(\mathbf{X}) = X_i$

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This work:

- New upper bound $I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq g(\alpha)$ that holds for all balanced functions
- $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 1/2} \frac{g(\alpha)}{1-h(\alpha)} = 1$

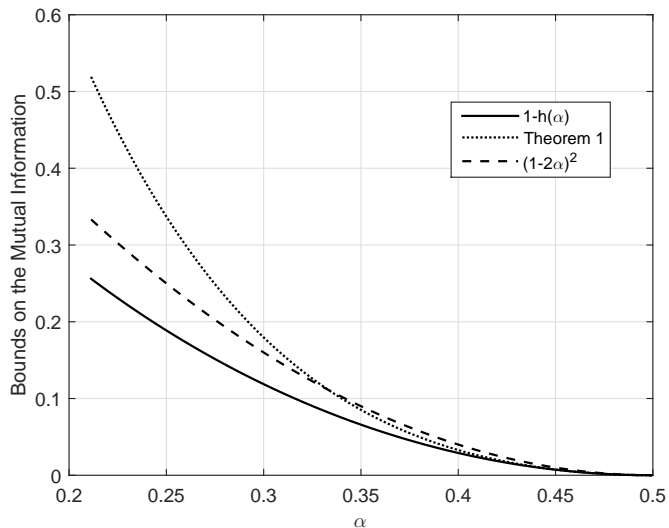
Main Result

Theorem

For any balanced function $f : \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto \{-1, 1\}$ and any $\frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) \leq \alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}$, we have that

$$I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq \frac{\log_2(e)}{2} (1 - 2\alpha)^2 + 9 \left(1 - \frac{\log_2(e)}{2}\right) (1 - 2\alpha)^4.$$

Main Result



Simple Attempts: MGL

For simplicity assume f is balanced ($\Pr(f(\mathbf{X}) = 1) = 1/2$)

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Let

- $\mathcal{A}_{-1} \triangleq f^{-1}(-1) \triangleq \{x : f(x) = -1\}$
- $\mathcal{A}_1 \triangleq f^{-1}(1) \triangleq \{x : f(x) = 1\}$
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Mrs. Gerber's Lemma [WZ73]

$$H(\mathbf{W} \oplus \mathbf{Z}) \geq nh \left(\alpha * h^{-1} \left(\frac{H(\mathbf{W})}{n} \right) \right)$$

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Weakness: MGL not tight for \mathbf{W} uniform on subsets

Simple Attempts: SDPI

Let

$$\eta_{\text{KL}}(P_{Y|X}, Q) \triangleq \sup_{P: 0 < D(P||Q) < 1} \frac{D(P_{Y|X} \circ P || P_{Y|X} \circ Q)}{D(P||Q)}$$

- $\eta_{\text{KL}}(P_{Y|X}, Q)$ tensorizes: $\eta_{\text{KL}}(P_{Y|X}^n, Q^n) = \eta_{\text{KL}}(P_{Y|X}, Q)$
- $\eta_{\text{KL}}(P_{Y|X}, Q) = \sup_{\substack{U-X-Y \\ P_{XY} = Q \times P_{Y|X}}} \frac{I(U; Y)}{I(U; X)}$

Conclusion

For all $f : \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto \{-1, 1\}$

$$\frac{I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y})}{I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{X})} \leq \eta_{\text{KL}}(\text{BSC}(\alpha), \text{Bernoulli}(\frac{1}{2})) = (1 - 2\alpha)^2$$

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$$h(p) \triangleq -p \log_2(p) - (1-p) \log_2(1-p)$$

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Recall: $h(p) \geq 4p(1 - p)$

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Conclusion

For all balanced $f : \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto \{-1, 1\}$

$$I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq \max_{\substack{f: \{0,1\}^n \mapsto \{-1,1\} \\ \mathbb{E}f(\mathbf{X})=0, \mathbb{E}f^2(\mathbf{X})=1}} \mathbb{E} (\mathbb{E}(f(\mathbf{X}) | \mathbf{Y}))^2$$

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Rényi maximal correlation

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[Witsenhausen '75]

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Weakness: the approximation $h(p) \geq 4p(1-p)$ is loose

Our Approach

We will first find tighter bounds on $h(p)$

Our Approach

Taylor expansion around $1/2$:

$$h(p) = h\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{(1-2p)}{2}\right)$$

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$$h(p) = h\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{(1-2p)}{2}\right) = 1 - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k (1-2p)^{2k}$$

$$c_k = \frac{\log_2(e)}{2k(2k-1)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}h(p) &= h\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{(1-2p)}{2}\right) = 1 - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k (1-2p)^{2k} \\ &\geq 1 - \sum_{k=1}^{t-1} c_k (1-2p)^{2k} - (1-2p)^{2t} \sum_{k=t}^{\infty} c_k\end{aligned}$$

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for $t = 1$ this gives $h(p) \geq 4p(1-p)$

Larger t , better bounds

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Recall: $I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) = 1 - \mathbb{E}h(P_{\mathbf{Y}}^f)$; $1 - 2P_{\mathbf{Y}}^f = \mathbb{E}(f(\mathbf{X})|\mathbf{Y})$

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$$I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq \sum_{k=1}^t c_k \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E}^{2k}(f(\mathbf{X})|\mathbf{Y}) \right] + \left(1 - \sum_{k=1}^t c_k\right) \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E}^{2t}(f(\mathbf{X})|\mathbf{Y}) \right]$$

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For channel $w(x|y)$ and function $g : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ define

$$(T_w g)(y) \triangleq \mathbb{E} (g(X) | Y = y) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} w(x|y) g(x)$$

Our Approach

$$I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq \sum_{k=1}^t c_k \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E}^{2^k} (f(\mathbf{X}) | \mathbf{Y}) \right] + \left(1 - \sum_{k=1}^t c_k \right) \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E}^{2^t} (f(\mathbf{X}) | \mathbf{Y}) \right]$$

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and for $Y \sim Q$ we can further define

$$\|T_w g\|_p \triangleq (\mathbb{E} [\mathbb{E}^p (g(X) | Y)])^{1/p}$$

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For us: $\mathbf{Y} \sim \text{Bernoulli}^n(\frac{1}{2})$, $w = \text{BSC}^n(\alpha)$

Our Approach

$$I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq \sum_{k=1}^t c_k \|T_w f\|_{2k}^{2k} + \left(1 - \sum_{k=1}^t c_k\right) \|T_w f\|_{2t}^{2t}$$

For channel $w(x|y)$ and function $g : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ define

$$(T_w g)(y) \triangleq \mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y=y) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} w(x|y)g(x)$$

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Need to upper bound $\|T_w f\|_{2k}$, for $k = 1, \dots, t$

Hypercontractivity

Given $Y \sim Q$ and channel $w = w(x|y)$, define for $p > 1$

$$S_p(w, Q) \triangleq \inf \{r : \|T_w g\|_p \leq \|g\|_r \ \forall g : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}\}$$

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Let $\mathbf{Y} \sim \text{Bernoulli}^n(\frac{1}{2})$ and $w(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) = \text{BSC}^n(\delta)$, and let

$1 \leq r < p < \infty$. If $(1 - 2\delta) \leq \sqrt{\frac{r-1}{p-1}}$, then for any $g : \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

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Quite useless for $g : \{-1, 1\}^n \mapsto \{-1, 1\}$ as $\|g\|_q = 1, \forall q$

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- Let $w'(z|y)$ be a channel with input \mathcal{Y} and output \mathcal{Z}
- Let $w''(x|z)$ be a channel with input \mathcal{Z} and output \mathcal{X}
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\mathbf{Z} and \mathbf{X} are both Bernoulliⁿ $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$

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definition of g

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maximal correlation (recall: f balanced)

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Note: derivation only used $\mathbb{E}f(\mathbf{X}) = 0$ and $\mathbb{E}f^2(\mathbf{X}) = 1$

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Theorem

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$$\|(T_\alpha f)(\mathbf{X})\|_p \leq (p-1)(1-2\alpha)^2.$$

Main result

We have found:

- $I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq \sum_{k=1}^t c_k \|T_\alpha f\|_{2k}^{2k} + (1 - \sum_{k=1}^t c_k) \|T_\alpha f\|_{2t}^{2t}$
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Theorem

For any balanced function $f : \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto \{-1, 1\}$, any integer $t \geq 1$ and any $\frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2t-1}}\right) \leq \alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}$, we have that

$$I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq \sum_{k=1}^{t-1} \frac{\log_2(e)}{2k(2k-1)} (2k-1)^k (1-2\alpha)^{2k} \\ + \left(1 - \sum_{k=1}^{t-1} \frac{\log_2(e)}{2k(2k-1)}\right) (2t-1)^t (1-2\alpha)^{2t}.$$

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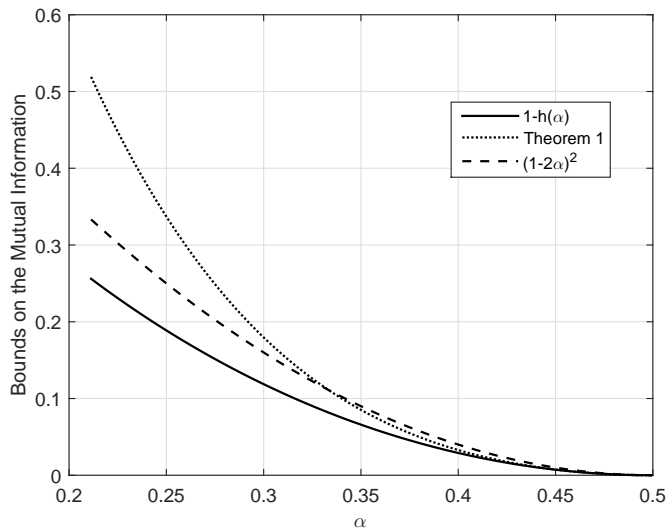
Theorem

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$$I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y}) \leq \frac{\log_2(e)}{2} (1-2\alpha)^2 + 9 \left(1 - \frac{\log_2(e)}{2}\right) (1-2\alpha)^4.$$

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Main result



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Corollary

For all $\frac{1}{2}(1 - 2^{-(n+2)}) \leq \alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}$ and all balanced functions $f : \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto \{-1, 1\}$

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It is now known that $(*)$ holds for all boolean functions and $\frac{1}{2}(1 - \delta) < \alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}$ ($\delta > 0$ and indep. of n) [Samorodnitsky'15]

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Our bound is based on bounding $\|T_\alpha f\|_{2k}$ for all $k = 1, 2, \dots$

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It is easy to verify that for fixed n and $k \rightarrow \infty$ we can find g (e.g., majority) with $\|T_\alpha g\|_{2k} > (1 - 2\alpha)^{2k}$

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$$\rho(2k, \alpha) = (1 - 2\alpha)^{2k}$$

In other words, that for any k dictatorship maximizes $\|T_\alpha f\|_{2k}$ provided that n is large enough

It is easy to verify that for fixed n and $k \rightarrow \infty$ we can find g (e.g., majority) with $\|T_\alpha g\|_{2k} > (1 - 2\alpha)^{2k}$

Less plausible to believe that $\rho(2k, \alpha) = (1 - 2\alpha)^{2k}$ for all $k \dots$

Summary

- We have studied the most informative boolean function conjecture
- Derived a new upper bound on $I(f(\mathbf{X}); \mathbf{Y})$ for balanced f
- Bound becomes tight as channel becomes noisier
- Main ingredient was to bound high moments of $T_\alpha f$
- This was done by
 - Markov operator for degraded channels
 - hypercontractivity
 - maximal correlation