

Lecture 14: September 20

Lecturer: Neil Calkin

Scribe: Honghai Xu and Reid Sanders

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14.1 Finding upper bound for P_n

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} P_n x^n = \prod_{j=1}^{\infty} (1 - x^j)^{-1}$$

$$P_n \leq \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{\infty} (1 - x^j)^{-1}}{x^n} \quad \forall x \in (0, 1)$$

Let x_n^* be the minimizing value for $P(x)/x^n$. We'll rewrite $P(x)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= \exp \left\{ - \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \log(1 - x^j) \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{jk}}{k} \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} x^{jk} \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \frac{x^k}{1 - x^k} \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x} \frac{(1-x)x^k}{k(1-x^k)} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Aside:

$$\frac{1-x}{1-x^k} x^k < \frac{1}{k} \quad \forall x < 1$$

$$\text{and } \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(1-x)x^k}{1-x^k} = \frac{1}{k}$$

Exercise : Prove this Aside

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(x) &< \exp \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x} \frac{(1-x)x^k}{k(1-x^k)} \right\} \\
 &= \exp \left\{ \frac{\pi^2}{6(1-x)} \right\} \\
 &\exp \left\{ \frac{\pi^2}{6\epsilon} \log(1-\epsilon) \right\} \\
 \text{So } P_n &< \exp \left\{ \frac{\pi^2}{6(1-x)} \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Minimize the exponent:

$$\begin{aligned}
 -\pi^2 6\epsilon^2 + \frac{n}{1-\epsilon} &= 0 \\
 \text{Or: } 6\epsilon^2 n + \epsilon\pi^2 - \pi^2 &= 0 \\
 \epsilon &= \frac{-\pi^2 + \sqrt{\pi^4 + 4(6)(\pi^2)(n)}}{12n} \\
 &= \frac{-\pi^2}{12n} + \sqrt{\frac{\pi^2}{6n} + \frac{\pi^4}{144n}} \\
 &\simeq \sqrt{\frac{\pi^2}{6n}} \text{ (for now)} \\
 \text{Hence: } P_n &< \frac{\exp \left\{ \frac{\pi^2}{6} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{\pi^2}{6n}}} \right\}}{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{\pi^2}{6n}}}\right)^n} \\
 \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{\pi^2}{6n}}\right)^n &\simeq \exp \left\{ \pi \sqrt{\frac{2n}{3}} \right\} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right) \\
 P_n &< \exp \left\{ 2\sqrt{\frac{\pi^2 n}{6}} \right\} \\
 &= \exp \left\{ \pi \sqrt{\frac{2n}{3}} \right\} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

This is actually a very good upper bound for P_n . In particular, the number of digits of P_n is $O(\sqrt{n})$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \epsilon &= \frac{\sqrt{\pi^4 + 24(\pi^2)(n)}}{12n} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{\pi^2 n}{6}} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{24n}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{\pi^2 n}{6}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{24n}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{24n}\right)^2 \dots\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

So the minimizing point is actually

$$\sqrt{\frac{\pi^2}{6n}} - \frac{\pi^2}{12n} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi^2}{6n}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi^2}{6n}} + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right),$$

which can be written as

$$\epsilon \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2} + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right).$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\pi^2}{6\epsilon \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2} + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right)} &= \frac{\pi^2}{6\epsilon} \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2} - O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right) \\ &= \frac{\pi^2}{6\epsilon} + \frac{\pi^2}{12} + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right), \end{aligned}$$

the numerator becomes

$$\exp\left\{\frac{\pi^2}{6\epsilon}\right\} \exp\left\{\frac{\pi^2}{12}\right\},$$

and the denominator becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\left(1 - \epsilon \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2} + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right)\right)^n} &= \frac{1}{\left(1 - \epsilon + \frac{\epsilon^2}{2} + O\left(\frac{\epsilon}{n}\right)\right)^n} \\ &= \frac{1}{\left((1 - \epsilon) \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon^2}{2}\right) \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{n^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right)\right)\right)^n} \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - \epsilon)^n \left(1 + \frac{\pi^2}{6n}\right)^n (1 + O(1))} \\ &\approx e^{\frac{\pi^2}{6}}. \end{aligned}$$

So our upper bound takes the form of $e^{\pi\sqrt{\frac{2n}{3}}} e^{-\frac{\pi^2}{12}}$.

So our bound just changes slightly.

Truth: $P_n \approx \frac{c}{n} e^{\pi\sqrt{\frac{2n}{3}}}$.

Remark: We could try to be more precise, and estimate how big $\frac{1}{k} - \frac{x^k}{1-x^k}(1-x)$ is, and get a better upper bound, but it isn't worth the effort.

Reason is: If ϵ^k is big, then $(1-x)^k \approx e^{-\epsilon k}$ is small. $k \gg \sqrt{n}$, so the part of $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2}$ which we lose is less than

$$\sum_{k \geq \sqrt{n}} \frac{1}{k^2} \approx \int_{\sqrt{n}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

So $P(x)$ looks like

$$\exp\left\{\frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{6} - \frac{c}{\sqrt{n}}\right)\right\} = \exp\left\{\frac{\pi^2}{6\epsilon} - \frac{c'}{n}\right\} = \exp\left\{\frac{\pi^2}{6\epsilon}\right\} (1 + O(1)).$$