

## A. Extra Proofs

*Proof of Proposition 3.* It is well known that the local sensitivity of any contingency table with respect to our definition of  $\text{nbrs}(\mathbf{X})$  is one. This is easy to see from the definition of  $n_C$  following Eq. (2): each individual contributes a count of exactly one to each clique contingency table. Since there are  $|\mathcal{C}|$  tables, the local sensitivity is exactly  $|\mathcal{C}|$  for all data sets, and, therefore, the sensitivity is the same.  $\square$

*Proof of Proposition 4.* Note that  $n_C(i_C)$  is a sum of  $N$  iid indicator variables, so  $n_C(i_C) \sim \text{Binomial}(N, \mu_C(i_C))$ , and  $\text{Var}(n_C(i_C)) = N\mu_C(i_C)(1 - \mu_C(i_C))$ . Now let  $z \sim \text{Laplace}(|\mathcal{C}|/\epsilon)$  and write:

$$\bar{\mu}_C(i_C) = \frac{1}{N}(n_C(i_C) + z)$$

Recall that  $\mathbb{E}[z] = 0$  and  $\text{Var}(z) = 2|\mathcal{C}|^2/\epsilon^2$ . We see immediately that  $\mathbb{E}[\bar{\mu}_C(i_C)] = \mathbb{E}[n_C(i_C)/N] = \mu_C(i_C)$ . Therefore, the estimator is unbiased and its mean-squared error is equal to its variance. Since  $n_C(i_C)$  and  $z$  are independent, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\bar{\mu}_C(i_C)) &= \frac{\text{Var}(n_C(i_C))}{N^2} + \frac{\text{Var}(z)}{N^2} \\ &= \frac{\mu_C(i_C)(1 - \mu_C(i_C))}{N} + \frac{2|\mathcal{C}|^2}{N^2\epsilon^2} \end{aligned}$$

The fact that  $p(\mathbf{x}; \hat{\theta})$  converges to  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$  follows from Proposition 2 and the consistency of the marginals, as long as the true marginals  $\mu$  lie in the interior of the marginal polytope  $\mathcal{M}$ . However, this is guaranteed because the true distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$  is strictly positive.  $\square$

*Proof of Proposition 5.* After applying Stirling's approximation to  $\log p(\mathbf{n}; \theta)$  we obtain (Nguyen et al., 2016):

$$\log h(\mathbf{n}) \approx H(\mathbf{n}) = N \log N + \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}} \hat{H}_C - \sum_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \nu(S) \hat{H}_S \quad (7)$$

where we define  $\hat{H}_A = -\sum_{i_A \in \mathcal{X}^{|A|}} n_A(i_A) \log n_A(i_A)$  for any  $A \in \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{S}$ . The term  $\hat{H}_A$  is a scaled entropy. We can rewrite it as:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_A &= -N \sum_{i_A} \frac{n_A(i_A)}{N} \log \left( \frac{n_A(i_A)}{N} \cdot N \right) \\ &= -N \sum_{i_A} \hat{\mu}_A(i_A) \log \hat{\mu}_A(i_A) - N \sum_{i_A} \hat{\mu}_A(i_A) \log N \\ &= N H_A - N \log N \end{aligned}$$

where  $H_A$  is now the entropy of the empirical marginal distribution  $\hat{\mu}_A = \mathbf{n}_A/N$ . Since the total multiplicity of the separators is one less than the number of cliques, when we substitute back into Eq. (7), all of the  $N \log N$  terms cancel, and we are left only with

$$H(\mathbf{n}) = N \cdot \left( \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{T})} H_C - \sum_{S \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{T})} \nu(S) H_S \right)$$

But, from standard arguments about the decomposition of entropy on junction trees, the term in parentheses is exactly the entropy of distribution  $q$  defined as:

$$q(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}} \prod_{i_C \in \mathcal{X}^{|C|}} \hat{\mu}_C(\mathbf{x}_C)}{\prod_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \prod_{i_S \in \mathcal{X}^{|S|}} \hat{\mu}_S(\mathbf{x}_S)^{\nu(S)},$$

which factors according to  $\mathcal{C}$  and can be written as  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$  for parameters  $\theta$  derived from the marginal probabilities. Although the mapping from parameters to distributions is many-to-one, for any marginals  $\hat{\mu}$ , there is a unique distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$  in the model family that has marginals  $\hat{\mu}$  (Wainwright & Jordan, 2008), so this uniquely defines  $q(\mathbf{x})$  as stated in the Proposition.  $\square$