

1.5. Shannon entropy and von Neumann entropy

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Definition 1.5.1

Any quantity X capable of a discrete number of real values x_i , $i \in I$ with probabilities

$$P_i^X := P(X=x_i) = P(x_i) \geq 0 \text{ such that } \sum_{i \in I} P_i^X = 1$$

is called a discrete random variable with probability $\pi_X = \{P(x_i)\}_{i \in I}$

Example 1.5.1.

$$\#(I) := \text{card}(I) = N$$

$P_1^X = P(x_1) = 1 \Rightarrow X$ is deterministic (it always returns $X = x_1$)

$P_i^X = P(x_i) = \frac{1}{N} \quad \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, N \Rightarrow X$ is completely random

Observation : the higher the probability $p_i = P(x_i)$, the more likely x_i is, the less informative is the acquisition of the knowledge that $X = x_i$.

Definition 1.5.2

Two random variables $(X, \{P(x_i)\}_{i \in I} = \pi_X)$ and $(Y, \{P(y_j)\}_{j \in J} = \pi_Y)$ are statistically independent iff the joint probabilities

$P_{ij}^{XY} = P(X=x_i, Y=y_j) = P(x_i, y_j)$ factorize: $P_{ij}^{XY} = P_i^X P_j^Y$.

Namely, $\pi_{XY} = \{P_{ij}^{XY}\}_{i \in I, j \in J} = \pi_X \pi_Y$

Observation : π_X itself, as a function of X , is a random variable

Observation : any measure of the information content of a random event (one of the outcomes of X) should be a function $I : \pi_X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

- such that
- $\boxed{I(p_i^X) \geq 0 \quad \forall i}$ a)
 - $\boxed{I(p_i^X = 1) = 0}$ b)
 - $\boxed{I(p_i^X p_j^Y) = I(p_i^X) + I(p_j^Y)}$ c)

for statistically independent X, Y .

Remark : asking for sufficient smoothness of $I(u)$ on $[0,1]$, one gets from c), with $I'(u) = \frac{dI}{du}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{p_i^X} I(p_i^X p_j^Y) &= p_j^Y I'(p_i^X p_j^Y) = I'(p_i^X) \\ \partial_{p_j^Y}^2 \partial_{p_i^X} I(p_i^X p_j^Y) &= I'(p_i^X p_j^Y) + p_i^X p_j^Y I''(p_i^X p_j^Y) = 0 \\ I'(u) + u I''(u) &= \frac{d}{du} (u I'(u)) = 0 \implies u I'(u) = a \implies \boxed{\begin{matrix} I(u) = -\log u \\ a = -1 \end{matrix}}$$

Definition 1.5.3

$I(p_i^x) = -\log p_i^x$ is the information content of the event $X = x_i$ occurring with probability $p_i^x = p(x_i) = p(X = x_i)$.

Remark: each event occurring with probability p_i^x , the average information content of X is the expectation of the random variable $\{I(p_i^x)\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} = I(X)$ with respect to π_x .

Definition 1.5.4. (Shannon entropy)

The average information content about X , random variable with probability π_x , is called Shannon entropy and is given by

$$H(\pi_x) := - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} p_i^x \log p_i^x = E[-\log \pi_x] \quad (H(\pi_x) = H(X))$$

Remark: $H(x)$ measures the average information that one collects after knowing $X = x_i$ or else the average ignorance that one has about X before knowing $X = x_i$

Example 1.5.2.

- If X is deterministic then $H(x) = 0$ by setting

$$\eta(x) := -x \log x \quad \text{for } 0 < x \leq 1 \text{ and } \eta(0) = 0$$

- If X is completely random and $\#(I) = N$, then

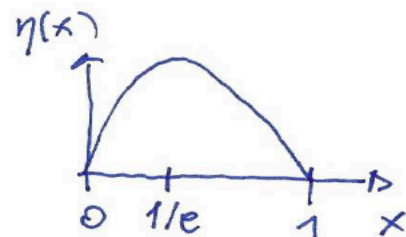
$$H(x) = - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{N} \log \frac{1}{N} = \log N$$

Observation:

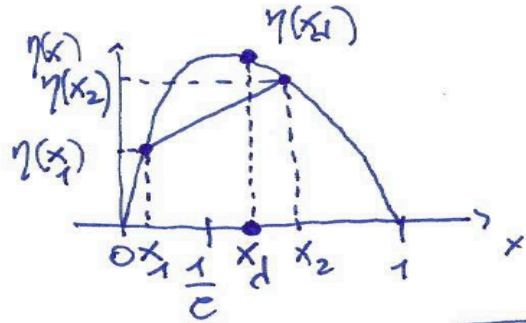
$\eta(x)$ is concave

$$\eta'(x) = -(1 + \log x)$$

$$\eta''(x) = -\frac{1}{x}$$



Concavity



$$x_d = d x_1 + (1-d) x_2$$

$$0 \leq d \leq 1$$

$$\eta(x_d) = \eta(d x_1 + (1-d) x_2) \geq d \eta(x_1) + (1-d) \eta(x_2)$$

$\forall d \in [0, 1]$
 $\forall x_1, x_2 \in [0, 1]$

$$\eta(x_2) - \eta(x_1) \leq \eta'(x_1) (x_2 - x_1) \quad \forall x_1, x_2 \in [0, 1]$$

$$-x_2 \log x_2 + x_1 \log x_1 \leq (1 + \log x_1) (x_1 - x_2)$$

$$x_2 (\log x_2 - \log x_1) \geq x_2 - x_1$$

$$= \text{holds iff } x_1 = x_2$$

Exercise 1.5.1

show that $H(x) \leq \log N$ if $\pi_x = \{p_i^x\}_{i=1}^N$

let $\pi_U = \{\frac{1}{N}\}_{i=1}^N$

$$H(x) - H(U) = - \sum_{i=1}^N p_i^x \log p_i^x - \log N = - \sum_{i=1}^N p_i^x (\log p_i^x - \log \frac{1}{N})$$

$$\leq - \sum_{i=1}^N (p_i^x - \frac{1}{N}) = 0$$

Proposition 1.5.1. The Shannon entropy is

• Concave: if $\pi_X^{(1)}$ and $\pi_X^{(2)}$ are probabilities for a random variable X and $[0, 1] \ni d$, then

$$H(d\pi_X^{(1)} + (1-d)\pi_X^{(2)}) \geq d H(\pi_X^{(1)}) + (1-d) H(\pi_X^{(2)})$$

•• Sub-additive: $H(X, Y) \leq H(X) + H(Y)$

Proof: $\pi_X^{(1)} = \{P_{1i}^X\}_{i \in I}$, $\pi_X^{(2)} = \{P_{2i}^X\}_{i \in I}$

$$\pi_d := d\pi_X^{(1)} + (1-d)\pi_X^{(2)} = \{dP_{1i}^X + (1-d)P_{2i}^X\}_{i \in I}$$

$$\begin{aligned} H(\pi_d) &= - \sum_{i \in I} \eta(dP_{1i}^X + (1-d)P_{2i}^X) \geq -d \sum_{i \in I} \eta(P_{1i}^X) - (1-d) \sum_{i \in I} \eta(P_{2i}^X) \\ &= d H(\pi_X^{(1)}) + (1-d) H(\pi_X^{(2)}) \end{aligned}$$

Remark: Mixing probabilities increases the uncertainty

•• $\pi_{XY} = \{ P_{ij}^{XY} \}_{\substack{i \in I \\ j \in J}}$: joint probability

$\pi_X = \{ P_i^X \}_{i \in I}$, $P_i^X = \sum_{j \in J} P_{ij}^{XY}$ } : Marginal Probabilities

$\pi_Y = \{ P_\delta^Y \}_{\delta \in J}$: $P_\delta^Y = \sum_{i \in I} P_{ij}^{XY}$

$$H(X) + H(Y) - H(X, Y) = \sum_{\substack{i \in I \\ j \in J}} P_{ij}^{XY} \log P_{ij}^{XY} - \sum_{i \in I} P_i^X \log P_i^X - \sum_{\delta \in J} P_\delta^Y \log P_\delta^Y$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{i \in I \\ j \in J}} P_{ij}^{XY} \left(\log P_{ij}^{XY} - \log (P_i^X P_\delta^Y) \right)$$

$$\geq \sum_{\substack{i \in I \\ j \in J}} \left(P_{ij}^{XY} - P_i^X P_\delta^Y \right) = 0$$

Remark: $H(X, Y) = H(X) + H(Y)$ iff $P_{ij}^{XY} = P_i^X P_\delta^Y \quad \forall i \in I, \delta \in J$

Definition 1.5.5

Given two random variables $X = \{x_i\}_{i \in I}$ and $Y = \{y_j\}_{j \in J}$

with joint probability $\pi_{XY} = \{P_{ij}^{XY}\}_{i \in I, j \in J}$ and marginal

probabilities $\pi_X = \{P_i^X = \sum_{j \in J} P_{ij}^{XY}\}_{i \in I}$ and $\pi_Y = \{P_j^Y = \sum_{i \in I} P_{ij}^{XY}\}_{j \in J}$,

the conditional probabilities of X given $Y = y_j$ and of Y given $X = x_i$ are given by

$$\pi_{X|Y=y_j} = \left\{ \frac{P_{ij}^{XY}}{P_j^Y} \right\}_{i \in I}$$

and

$$\pi_{Y|X=x_i} = \left\{ \frac{P_{ij}^{XY}}{P_i^X} \right\}_{j \in J}$$

Definition 1.5.6

The conditional entropies of X given Y and of Y given X are

$$H(X|Y) = \sum_{j \in J} P_j^Y H(\pi_{X|Y=y_j})$$

and

$$H(Y|X) = \sum_{i \in I} P_i^X H(\pi_{Y|X=x_i})$$

Consider $H(X|Y) = \sum_{j \in J} P_j^Y H(\pi_{X|Y=Y_j})$ (≥ 0)

$$= - \sum_{j \in J} P_j^Y \sum_{i \in I} P_i^{X|Y=Y_j} \log P_i^{X|Y=Y_j}$$

$$= - \sum_{\substack{j \in J \\ i \in I}} P_j^Y \frac{P_{ij}^{XY}}{P_j^Y} \log \frac{P_{ij}^{XY}}{P_j^Y}$$

$$= - \sum_{\substack{j \in J \\ i \in I}} P_{ij}^{XY} (\log P_{ij}^{XY} - \log P_j^Y)$$

$$= H(X, Y) + \sum_{\substack{j \in J \\ i \in I}} P_{ij}^{XY} \log P_j^Y$$

$$= H(X, Y) + \sum_{j \in J} P_j^Y \log P_j^Y = H(X, Y) - H(Y)$$

Lemma 1.5.1.

$$H(X, Y) = H(Y) + H(X|Y) \geq H(Y)$$

Exercise 1.5.2 Prove that $H(X, Y) = H(X) + H(Y|X) \geq H(X)$

Remark: if X and Y describe two physical systems S_1 and S_2 and (X, Y) describes the compound system $S_1 + S_2$, then knowing $S_1 + S_2$, $H(X, Y) = 0$, means knowing both S_1 , $H(X) = 0$, and S_2 , $H(Y) = 0$.

Example 1.5.3 Given a macrostate M consisting of Ω_M possible microstates (configurations), the Boltzmann entropy of M is $H_B(M) = \log \Omega_M$

Given X , $\pi_X = \{p_i^X\}_{i \in I}$, let M be the collection of N outcomes of X .

For $N \gg 1$ each x_i turns up $N_i = N p_i^X$ times and $N = \sum_{i \in I} N_i$.

Then $\Omega_M = \frac{N!}{\prod_{i \in I} (N_i!)}$. Using Stirling, $\log N! \approx N \log N - N$

$$\begin{aligned} H_B(M) &\approx N \log N - \sum_{i \in I} N_i \log N_i - N + \sum_{i \in I} N_i \\ &\approx N \log N - \sum_{i \in I} N p_i^X (\log p_i^X + \log N) \\ &\approx N H(X) \end{aligned}$$

Definition 1.5.7.

von Neumann Entropy

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Given a quantum system described by a density matrix ρ , the ignorance (before measurement of ρ) or knowledge (after measurement of ρ) about the system is measured by

$$S(\rho) = -\text{Tr} \rho \log \rho$$

Observations

- If $\rho = \sum_{i \in I} \pi_i |i\rangle\langle i|$, $0 \leq \pi_i \leq 1$, $\sum_{i \in I} \pi_i = 1$, $\langle i | j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$ then

$$S(\rho) = -\sum_i \pi_i \log \pi_i = H(S\rho(e)), \quad S\rho(e) = \{\pi_i\}_{i \in I} \cdot \Pi_P$$

- $S(P_\psi) = 0$ if $P_\psi = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$; if $\#(I) = N$ then $S(\rho) \leq \log N = S(\frac{1}{N})$
- $S(\rho)$ emerges as Boltzmann entropy of the macrostate consisting of the outcomes of N measurements of ρ .

Proposition 1.5.2

Upper and lower bounds to $S(p)$

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Let $p = \sum_{i \in I} d_i p_i \in \mathcal{S}(S)$:
 $\forall i \in I: d_i \geq 0 ; \sum_{i \in I} d_i = 1$

$$\sum_{i \in I} d_i S(p_i) \stackrel{(\leq)}{=} S(p) \leq \sum_{i \in I} d_i S(p_i) - \sum_i d_i \log d_i$$

↓
Concavity

Proof

• $S(p) \geq \sum_{i \in I} d_i S(p_i)$: let $p|_{R_\alpha} = r_\alpha |r_\alpha\rangle$, $r_\alpha \geq 0$, $\sum_\alpha r_\alpha = 1$, $\langle r_\alpha | r_\beta \rangle = \delta_{\alpha\beta}$
 $p_i |_{R_\alpha} = r_\alpha^i |r_\alpha^i\rangle$, $r_\alpha^i \geq 0$, $\sum_\alpha r_\alpha^i = 1$, $\langle r_\alpha^i | r_\beta^i \rangle = \delta_{\alpha\beta}$

$$S(p) = \sum_\alpha \eta(r_\alpha) = \sum_\alpha \eta(\langle r_\alpha | p | r_\alpha \rangle) = \sum_\alpha \eta\left(\sum_{i \in I} d_i \langle r_\alpha | p_i | r_\alpha \rangle\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_\alpha \sum_{i \in I} d_i \eta(\langle r_\alpha | p_i | r_\alpha \rangle) = \sum_\alpha \sum_{i \in I} d_i \eta\left(\sum_\beta r_\beta^i \langle r_\beta^i | r_\alpha \rangle^2\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \sum_\alpha \sum_{i \in I} \sum_\beta |\langle r_\beta^i | r_\alpha \rangle|^2 d_i \eta(r_\beta^i) &= \sum_{i \in I} \sum_\beta d_i \eta(r_\beta^i) \\ &= \sum_{i \in I} d_i S(p_i) \end{aligned}$$

Since $\eta(x) = -x \log x$
 is concave

• $S(\rho) \leq \sum_{i \in I} d_i S(\rho_i) - \sum_{i \in I} d_i \log d_i$: it follows from the matrix-monotonicity of $f(x) = \log x$ (see next two lemmas)

namely if $A \geq B \geq 0$ (positive operators) then

$$\log A \geq \log B.$$

Choose $A = \sum_{i \in I} d_i \rho_i$ and $B = \sum_{j \in I} d_j \rho_j$; then, $\log\left(\sum_{i \in I} d_i \rho_i\right) \geq \log\left(\sum_{j \in I} d_j \rho_j\right)$

and
$$\text{Tr}\left(\left(\sum_{j \in I} d_j \rho_j\right) \log\left(\sum_{i \in I} d_i \rho_i\right)\right) \geq \text{Tr}\left(\sum_{j \in I} d_j \rho_j \log\left(\sum_{i \in I} d_i \rho_i\right)\right)$$

Then,
$$-S(\rho) \geq \sum_{j \in I} d_j \text{Tr}(\rho_j \log \rho_j) + \sum_{j \in I} d_j \log d_j \text{Tr}(\rho_j)$$

Finally,
$$S(\rho) \leq \sum_{j \in I} d_j S(\rho_j) - \sum_{j \in I} d_j \log d_j$$

Matrix-monotone functions

Definition 1.5.8

A function $f: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called

matrix monotone if $A \geq B \Rightarrow f(A) \geq f(B)$

Lemma 1.5.2

$$A \geq B > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{A} \leq \frac{1}{B}$$

Proof:

$$A \geq B \Leftrightarrow \bar{A}^{1/2} B \bar{A}^{1/2} \leq I \Leftrightarrow \|\bar{A}^{1/2} B \bar{A}^{1/2}\| \leq 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \|B^{1/2} \bar{A}^{1/2}\| \leq 1 \Leftrightarrow \|\bar{A}^{1/2} B^{1/2}\| \leq 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \|B^{1/2} \bar{A}^{-1} B^{1/2}\| \leq 1 \Leftrightarrow \bar{B}^{1/2} \bar{A}^{-1} \bar{B}^{1/2} \leq I \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{A} \leq \frac{1}{B}$$

Lemma 1.5.3

$$A \geq B > 0 \Rightarrow \log A \geq \log B$$

Proof:

$$\log x = \int_0^{+0} dt \left(\frac{1}{1+t} - \frac{1}{x+t} \right)$$

$$\log A - \log B = \int_0^{+0} dt \left(\frac{1}{t+B} - \frac{1}{t+A} \right) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow t+A \geq t+B$$