

15-859    ITCS  
lecture 1

3-3 problem sets  
Scribe notes

Let  $X$  be a discrete rv.

|                |     |               |
|----------------|-----|---------------|
| $X \leftarrow$ | $a$ | $\frac{2}{3}$ |
|                | $b$ | $\frac{1}{6}$ |
|                | $c$ | $\frac{1}{6}$ |

$H(X)$ : entropy of rv.  $X$

measures information conveyed by  
the value of  $X$ .

$S: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  "surprise measure"

$$S(1) = 0$$

$$S(p) > S(q) \text{ if } p < q.$$

$S(x)$  is a continuous function

$X_1, X_2$  two independent instantiations  
of  $X$ .

$$S\left(\frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{3}\right) = S\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) + S\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$$

$\Rightarrow$  Only  $S$  satisfying above is

$$S(p) = c \log_2 \left( \frac{1}{p} \right), \quad c > 0.$$

also,  $S(\overset{\frac{1}{2}}{\text{coin}}) = 1 \Rightarrow c = 1.$

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Def. (Entropy)

Entropy of  $X$ , denoted  $H(X)$ ,

= average surprise for an outcome

$$= \mathbb{E}_{x \leftarrow X} \left( \log_2 \frac{1}{p(X=x)} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{x \in \text{Supp}(X)} p(x) \log_2 \frac{1}{p(x)}$$

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|     |          |          |
|-----|----------|----------|
|     | $a_1$    | $p_1$    |
| $X$ | $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ |
|     | $a_n$    | $p_n$    |

$$\Rightarrow H(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2 \frac{1}{p_i}, \quad \left( 0 \log \frac{1}{0} := 0 \right)$$

Ex: <sup>(above)</sup>  $H(X) = \frac{2}{3} \log \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{6} \log 6 + \frac{1}{6} \log 6.$

Fact  $H(X) \geq 0$ ,  $H(X)=0$  iff  $X$  is deterministic

Ex: Suppose  $X$  is uniform on  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$

$$\Rightarrow H(X) = \log_2 n.$$

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Fact: If  $|\text{Supp}(X)| = n$

$$\Rightarrow H(X) \leq \log_2 n$$

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$$X \leftarrow \text{Ber}(\frac{1}{2}) : X = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{w.p. } \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 & \text{"} \end{cases}$$

$$H(X) = 1 \text{ bit}$$

$$X \leftarrow \text{Ber}(1) : H(X) = 0$$

$$X \leftarrow \text{Ber}(p) : \begin{cases} 0 & \text{w.p. } 1-p \\ 1 & \text{w.p. } p \end{cases}$$

$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  iid samples

Suppose  $p = .0001$ . How to compress?

\*  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Send } k \text{ ( \# of 1's )} \\ \text{Then } \left\lceil \log_2 \binom{n}{k} \right\rceil \text{ bits to} \\ \text{revel which} \end{array} \right.$

$$\mathbb{E} [\# \text{ bits}] = \left\lceil \log_2 n \right\rceil + \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \left\lceil \log_2 \binom{n}{k} \right\rceil$$

$\Rightarrow$  amortized # bits per  $X_i \equiv m/n, n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Stirling approx: If  $k$  is far from  $pn$ ,  
the expression  $\rightarrow 0$ .

the non-vanishing term is

$$h(p) = p \log \frac{1}{p} + (1-p) \log \frac{1}{1-p}$$

$$X \leftarrow \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}. \quad H(X) = ?$$

$$Z_1 := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } X = a_1 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$Z_2 = \begin{cases} a_2 & \frac{p_2}{1-p_1} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ a_n & \frac{p_n}{1-p_1} \end{cases} \quad H(Z_2)$$

intuitively,  $H(X) = H(Z_1) + \cancel{H(Z_2)} P_1(Z_1=0)$  <sup>↗</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} &= p_1 \log \frac{1}{p_1} + (1-p_1) \log \frac{1}{p_1} \\ &\quad + (1-p_1) \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{p_i}{1-p_1} \log \frac{1-p_1}{p_i} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log \frac{1}{p_i} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$


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Lemma:  $|\text{Supp}(X)| = n \Rightarrow H(X) \leq \log \frac{1}{2}$

\* Jensen's Inequality:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbb{E}[f(X)] \leq f(\mathbb{E}(X)) \\ \text{if } f \text{ is concave.} \\ \text{e.g., } \begin{cases} \mathbb{E}[X^2] \geq \mathbb{E}(X)^2 \\ \mathbb{E}[\sqrt{X}] \leq \sqrt{\mathbb{E}[X]} \end{cases} \end{array} \right.$$

Proof. of Lemma

$$H(X) = \mathbb{E}_{x \leftarrow X} \left[ \log \frac{1}{p(x)} \right], \quad f(x) := \log \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\leq \log \left( \mathbb{E}_{x \leftarrow X} \frac{1}{p(x)} \right) = \log n.$$


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# Data Compression (Source Coding) or Lossless Data Compression

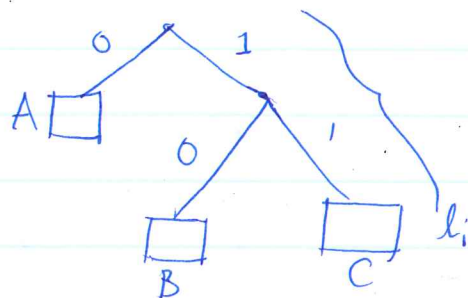
$$X \leftarrow \{a, b, \dots, z\}$$

→ Prefix-free Code or Instantaneous Code

$$\begin{cases} A \rightarrow 0 \\ B \rightarrow 1 \\ C \rightarrow \dots \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} A \rightarrow 0 \\ B \rightarrow 10 \\ C \rightarrow 11 \dots \end{cases}$$

$$X \leftarrow \begin{array}{c} a_1 \\ | \\ a_n \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{w.p.} \\ p_1 \\ | \\ p_n \end{array}$$



Huffman Coding → Greedy alg.

$$\text{avg. depth of a symbol} = \sum p_i l_i$$

Kraft's Inequality: a prefix-free code

for  $n$  symbols exists of lengths

$$l_1, \dots, l_n$$

