INFORMATION THEORY & CODING

Channel Coding - 1

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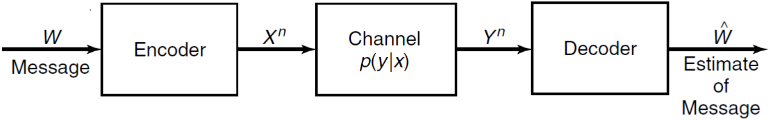
Outline

- **Channel model**: conditional distribution

- **Channel capacity**: defined in a pure way of information theory, not operational

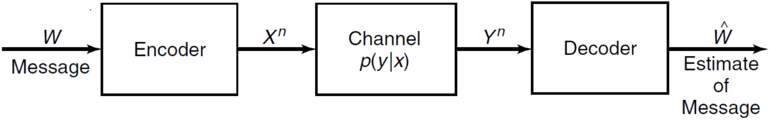
- **Channel coding & data rate**: operational indicator of channel

Communication System Model



- $X^n = [X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n]$
- $Y^n = [Y_1, Y_2, \ldots, Y_n]$
- Channel $p(y^n|x^n)$: probability of observing y^n given input input sequence x^n

Discrete memoryless channel (DMC)



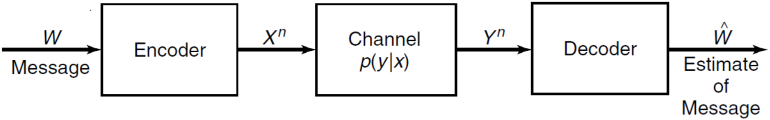
Definition

A discrete channel consists of an input alphabet $\mathcal{X}$ and output alphabet $\mathcal{Y}$ and a probability transition matrix $p(y^n|x^n)$ that expresses the probability of observing the output sequence y^n given that we send the sequence x^n.

Definition

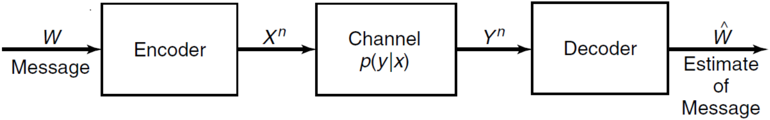
The channel is called memoryless if $p(y^n|x^n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(y_i|x_i)$.

Communication System Model



- $X^n = [X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n] \in \mathcal{X}^n$, $Y^n = [Y_1, Y_2, \ldots, Y_n] \in \mathcal{Y}^n$
  Channel $p(y^n|x^n)$: probability of observing y^n given input symbol x^n
  Memoryless: $p(y^n|x^n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(y_i|x_i)$
- Messages are mapped into some sequence of the channel symbols. Output sequence is random but has a distribution that depends on the input sequences. Each possible input sequence may induce several possbile outputs, and hence inputs are confusable. Can we choose a *non-confusable* subset of input sequences?

Duality



- Data compression: we remove all the redundancy in the data to form the most compressed version possible.

- Data transmission: we add redundancy in a controlled manner to combat errors in the channel.

"Survivor"

- You were deserted on a small island. You met a native and asked about the weather.

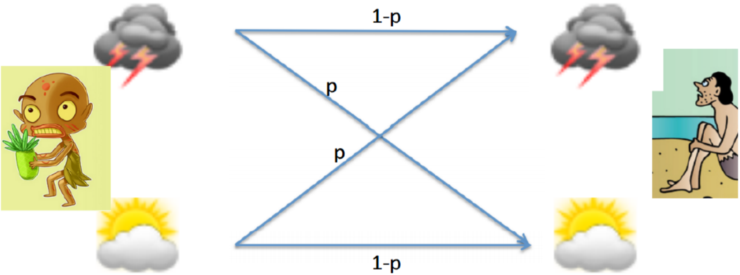
- True weather is a random variable X

$$X = \begin{cases} \text{rain} & \text{w.p. } \alpha, \\ \text{sunny} & \text{w.p. } 1-\alpha, \end{cases}$$

- Native knows tomorrow's weather perfectly, but only tells truth with probability $1-p$.

- Native's answer is a random variable $Y \in \{\text{rain, sunny}\}$.

- How informative is the native's answer?



What is $I(X;Y)$?

- $I(X;Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)$
- $H(X) = H(\alpha) = -\alpha \log \alpha - (1-\alpha)\log(1-\alpha)$
- $H(X|Y) = H(X|Y = \text{rain})p(\text{rain}) + H(X|Y = \text{sunny})p(\text{sunny})$
- $H(X|Y = \text{rain})$ is equal to $-\sum_{i\in\{\text{rain,sunny}\}} p(X = i|Y = \text{rain}) \log p(X = i|Y = \text{rain})$. Note that

$$p(X = \text{rain}|Y = \text{rain}) = \frac{p(X{=}\text{rain}|Y{=}\text{rain})p(X{=}\text{rain})}{p(Y{=}\text{rain})} = \frac{(1-p)\alpha}{(1-p)\alpha+p(1-\alpha)}$$

Thus, $H(X|Y) = \alpha H\left(\frac{(1-p)\alpha}{(1-p)\alpha+p(1-\alpha)}\right) + (1-\alpha)H\left(\frac{p\alpha}{p\alpha+(1-p)(1-\alpha)}\right)$

- $I(X;Y) = H(\alpha) - \alpha H\left(\frac{(1-p)\alpha}{(1-p)\alpha+p(1-\alpha)}\right) - (1-\alpha)H\left(\frac{p\alpha}{p\alpha+(1-p)(1-\alpha)}\right)$

Special Cases

- $I(X;Y) = H(\alpha) - \alpha H\left(\frac{(1-p)\alpha}{(1-p)\alpha+p(1-\alpha)}\right) - (1-\alpha)H\left(\frac{p\alpha}{p\alpha+(1-p)(1-\alpha)}\right)$
- Always telling the truth: $p = 0$

$$I(X;Y) = H(\alpha) - \alpha H(1) - (1-\alpha)H(0) = H(\alpha) \leq 1 \text{ bit}$$

- Telling truth half of the time: $p = 1/2$

$$I(X;Y) = H(\alpha) - \alpha H(\alpha) - (1-\alpha)H(\alpha) = 0 \text{ bit}$$

- Fix p, maximize with respect to α, maximum achieved when $\alpha = 1/2$

$$\max_{\alpha} I(X;Y) = H(1/2) - \frac{1}{2}H(1-p) - \frac{1}{2}H(p) = 1 - H(P)$$

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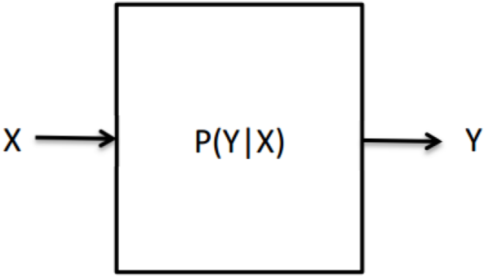
"Information" Channel Capacity

Definition ("Information" Channel Capacity)

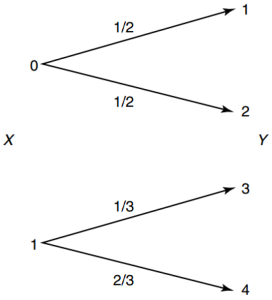
$$C = \max_{p(x)} I(X;Y)$$



- Binary noiseless channel

$$C = \max I(X;Y) = \log 2 = 1 \text{ bits } \left(\text{with } p(x) = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})\right)$$

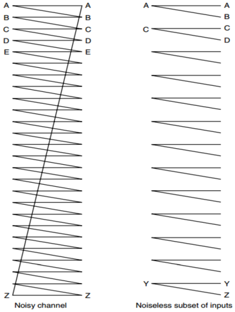
- Noisy channel with nonoverlapping outputs



$$C = \max I(X;Y) = \log 2 = 1 \text{ bits } \left(\text{with } p(x) = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})\right)$$

Examples

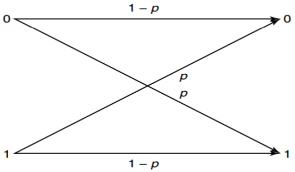
- Noisy typewriter



$$C = \max I(X;Y) = \log \frac{26}{2} = \log 13 \text{ bits } \left(\text{with } p(x) \text{ uniformly distributed}\right)$$

Examples

- Binary symmetric channel



CD-ROM read channel

$$I(X;Y) = H(Y) - H(Y|X) = H(Y) - \sum_{x\in\{0,1\}} p(x)H(Y|X=x)$$

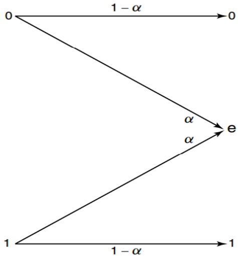
$$= H(Y) - \sum_{x\in\{0,1\}} p(x)H(p) = H(Y) - H(p) \leq 1 - H(p)$$

$C = \max I(X;Y) = I - H(p)$ bits

Examples

- Binary erasure channel

$$
\begin{aligned}
C &= \max_{p(x)} I(X;Y) \\
&= \max_{p(x)} \Big(H(Y) - H(Y|X) \Big) \\
&= \max_{p(x)} H(Y) - H(\alpha)
\end{aligned}
$$



Let $\Pr[X = 1] = \pi$, then

$$H(Y) = H\Big((1-\pi)(1-\alpha), \alpha, \pi(1-\alpha)\Big) = H(\alpha) + (1-\alpha)H(\pi)$$

Thus, $C = \max_\pi (1-\alpha)H(\pi) = 1 - \alpha$ (with $\pi = \frac{1}{2}$)

Symmetric channel

$$p(y|x) = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.2 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 0.3 & 0.2 \\ 0.2 & 0.5 & 0.3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

All the rows of the transition matrix are permutations of each other and so are the columns. Let $\mathbf{r}$ be a row of the transition matrix.

$$I(X;Y) = H(Y) - H(Y|X) = H(Y) - H(\mathbf{r}) \leq \log|\mathcal{Y}| - H(\mathbf{r})$$

with equality if $\mathcal{Y}$ is uniformly distributed. If $p(x) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}|}$, Y is also uniformly distributed:

$$p(y) = \sum_{x\in\mathcal{X}} p(y|x)p(x) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}|}\sum_{x\in\mathcal{X}} p(y|x) = \frac{c}{|\mathcal{X}|} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{Y}|},$$

where c is the sum of the entries in one column.

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Fundamental question

- How fast can we transmit information over a channel?
- Suppose a source sends r messages per second, and the entropy of a message is H bits per message, information rate is $R = rH$ bits/second.
- Intuition: as R increases, error will increase.
- Surprisingly, Shannon showed error can approach to zero, as long as

$$R < C$$

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