

# A Solution for a question in Class 7

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**1 Problem**  $h \in \mathbb{R}^{2^{[k]}}$ , is an entropy function provided there are RVs,  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k$ , s.t.  $h(A) = H(\{X_i\}_{i \in A})$ , prove that  $h$  satisfies the properties of polymatroid:

1.  $h(\emptyset) = 0$
2.  $h(A) \leq h(B), A \subseteq B$
3.  $h(A \cup B) + h(A \cap B) \leq h(A) + h(B)$  (I fail to prove the result)

## Solution

1.  $h(\emptyset) = H(\emptyset) = 0$
2. As  $A \subset B$ , without loss of generality, let  $A = \{1, \dots, s\}, B = \{1, \dots, s+t\}$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} h(A) &= H(X_1, \dots, X_s) \\ &= - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} p(x_1, \dots, x_s) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_s) \\ &= - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} \left( \sum_{x_{s+1}, \dots, x_{s+t}} p(x_1, \dots, x_{s+t}) \right) \log \left( \sum_{x_{s+1}, \dots, x_{s+t}} p(x_1, \dots, x_{s+t}) \right) \\ &\leq - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} \left( \sum_{x_{s+1}, \dots, x_{s+t}} p(x_1, \dots, x_{s+t}) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_{s+t}) \right) \\ &= - \sum_{x_{x_1}, \dots, x_{s+t}} p(x_1, \dots, x_{s+t}) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_{s+t}) \\ &= h(B) \end{aligned}$$

3. Without loss of generality, let  $A \cup B = \{1, \dots, s\}, A \cap B = \{1, \dots, t\}$ , and  $A = \{1, \dots, m\}, B = \{1, \dots, t, m+1, \dots, s\}$ , where  $s \geq m \geq t$

According to the definition, we can have that:

$$h(A \cup B) = - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} p(x_1, \dots, x_s) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_s)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
h(A \cap B) &= - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_t} p(x_1, \dots, x_t) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_t) \\
&= - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} p(x_1, \dots, x_s) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_t)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
h(A) &= - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_m} p(x_1, \dots, x_m) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_m) \\
&= - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} p(x_1, \dots, x_s) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_m)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
h(B) &= - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_t, x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s} p(x_1, \dots, x_t, x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_t, x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s) \\
&= - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} p(x_1, \dots, x_s) \log p(x_1, \dots, x_t, x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s)
\end{aligned}$$

In order to prove  $h(A \cup B) + h(A \cap B) \leq h(A) + h(B)$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\Leftrightarrow - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} p(x_1, \dots, x_s) \log(p(x_1, \dots, x_s)p(x_1, \dots, x_t)) \\
&\leq - \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} p(x_1, \dots, x_s) \log(p(x_1, \dots, x_m)p(x_1, \dots, x_t, x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s)) \\
&\Leftarrow p(x_1, \dots, x_s)p(x_1, \dots, x_t) \geq p(x_1, \dots, x_m)p(x_1, \dots, x_t, x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s), \quad (1) \\
&\quad \forall x_1, x_2, \dots, x_s
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{L.H.S} = p(x_1, \dots, x_m)p(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s|x_1, \dots, x_m)p(x_1, \dots, x_t)$$

$$\text{R.H.S} = p(x_1, \dots, x_m)p(x_1, \dots, x_t)p(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s|x_1, \dots, x_t)$$

Therefore, in order to prove (1), we just need to prove

$$\begin{aligned}
&p(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s|x_1, \dots, x_m) \geq p(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s|x_1, \dots, x_t) \\
&\Leftrightarrow p(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s|x_1, \dots, x_m) \geq p(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s|x_1, \dots, x_m)p(x_1, \dots, x_m|x_1, \dots, x_t) \\
&\quad + p(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s|x_1, \dots, x_t, \bar{x}_{t+1}, \dots, \bar{x}_m) \\
&\quad (1 - p(x_1, \dots, x_m|x_1, \dots, x_t)) \\
&\Leftrightarrow p(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s|x_1, \dots, x_m) \geq p(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_s|x_1, \dots, x_t, \bar{x}_{t+1}, \dots, \bar{x}_m)
\end{aligned}$$

**I failed to prove it as the inequality(1) is too loose**