$D_{\rm JS}[p,q] := \min_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \left( D_{\rm KL}[p:c] + D_{\rm KL}[q:c] \right)$ 

Variational definition of the Jensen-Shannon divergence



$$c = \frac{p+q}{2}$$

 $D_{\rm JS}[p,q] = \frac{1}{2} \left( D_{\rm KL} \left[ p : \frac{p+q}{2} \right] + D_{\rm KL} \left[ q : \frac{p+q}{2} \right] \right)$ 

Bounded symmetrization of the Kullback-Leibler divergence



1859-1925



Jensen-Shannon divergence = Jensen divergence for the Shannon negtentropy

 $\mathbf{D}_{\mathrm{JS}}[\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}] = \mathbf{h} \left[ \frac{\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}}{2} \right] - \frac{\mathbf{h}[\mathbf{p}] + \mathbf{h}[\mathbf{q}]}{2}$ 



1916-2001

 $D_M^{\text{vJS}}[p:q] := \min_c M(D[p:c], D[q:c])$ 

Generalization of the variational JS divergence

M(a,b) is an **abstract mean** 

like the arithmetic or geometric means