

Why is $S(\varphi) \leq H(\{p_i\})$?

We know that when Alice sends a state from the ensemble $\{p_i, |\psi_i\rangle\}$, such that $\varphi = \sum_i p_i |\psi_i\rangle\langle\psi_i|$ the optimal number of qubits needed is $S(\varphi)$.

Now, for any state $\varphi = \sum_i p_i \varphi_i$, where φ_i has an orthogonal support i.e., φ_i 's are mutually orthogonal or

$$\text{Tr}(\varphi_i \varphi_j) = 0, \forall i \neq j,$$

we know that;

$$S(\varphi) = H(\{p_i\}) + \sum_i p_i S(\varphi_i)$$

For any general $\{\varphi_i\}$, this relation becomes an inequality i.e., (see Nielsen and Chuang; Section 11.3.6).

$$S(\varphi) \leq H(\{p_i\}) + \sum_i p_i S(\varphi_i)$$

If $\varphi_i = |\psi_i\rangle\langle\psi_i|$ such that $\varphi = \sum_i p_i |\psi_i\rangle\langle\psi_i|$

then we have;

$$S(\varphi) \leq H(\{p_i\}) \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{as } S(\varphi_i) \\ = S(|\psi_i\rangle\langle\psi_i|) \\ = 0 \end{array} \right]$$