

# Fundamentals of Information Theory

## Basic Concepts

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# Outline

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- Model of communication systems
- How to characterize the information source?
- How much information a message contains?
- What is entropy?
- Joint and conditional entropy
- Relative entropy and mutual information
- Entropies in communications
- Chain Rules
- Jensen's Inequality and Log Sum Inequality
- Entropy rate: from single-outcome to sequence-outcome
- What is a Markov source?
- Differential Entropy: from discrete to continuous

# 本节学习目标

## 1. Entropy rate 熵率

- 写出定义与表达式
- 说出物理意义
- 计算马尔科夫信源熵率

## 2. Differential entropy 微分熵

- 写出定义与表达式
- 说出 $\geq 3$ 条微分熵的性质
- 写出均匀分布与正态分布的微分熵
- 说出 $\geq 3$ 条微分熵与熵之间的差异

### 重难点:

- 信源拓展: 从单输出到序列+从离散到连续
- 概念拓展: 熵率+微分熵
- 理解相关性与差异
- 计算: Markov source

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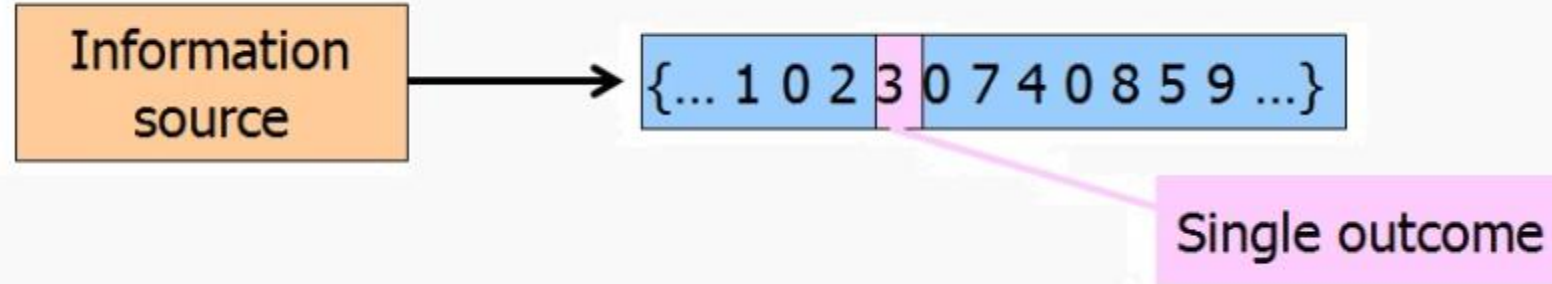
## Entropy rate:

from single-outcome to **sequence-outcome**

**Motivation    Definition    Theorem**

# Till now, we consider a **discrete single-outcome source**

- Outcome of the source:
  - **Single outcome**



- Model:



- Measure of information

$$H(X) = - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p(x) \log [p(x)]$$

# What if **when** things become complicated?

- We have a random output sequence  $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$

output sequence



- If  $\{X_i\}$  are **i.i.d.**,  $H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) = nH(X)$ .
- However, things are commonly related.

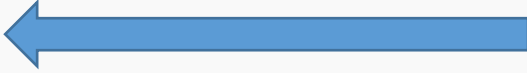


What if  $\{X_i\}$  are not **independent**?

$H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  vs  $n$  ?

# Sources studied in our course

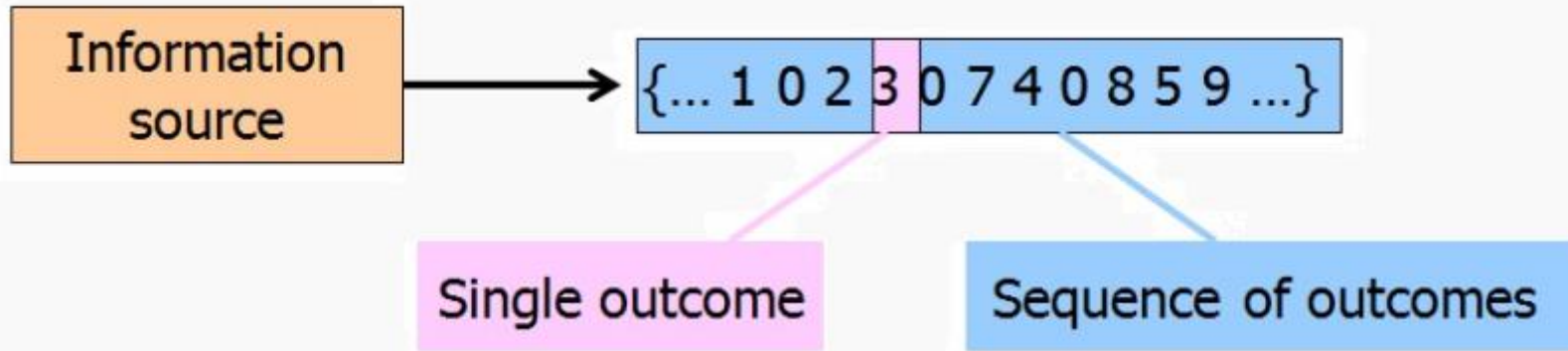
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- We study the ideal sources with **good properties**, then use them to approximate real sources.
  - **Discrete** Source
    - **Single Outcome** Discrete Source
    - **Outcome sequence** Discrete Source 
      - Discrete stationary **memoryless** source
      - Discrete stationary source **with memory**
  - **Continuous** source
    - Waveform source

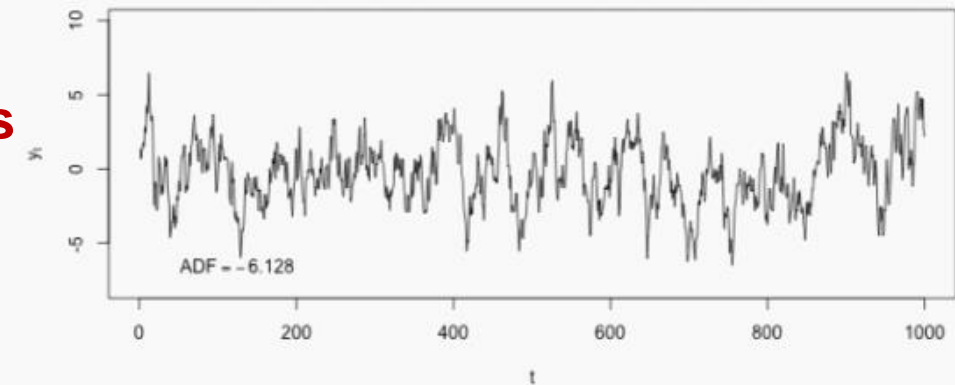


# Information source model

- Outcome of the source



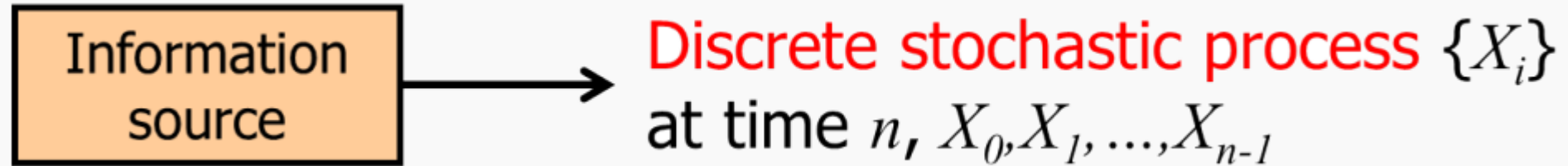
- Model of **discrete sequence source**
  - Output is a discrete stochastic sequence
    - Sampled from continuous **stochastic process**





# Sequence outcome source: system model

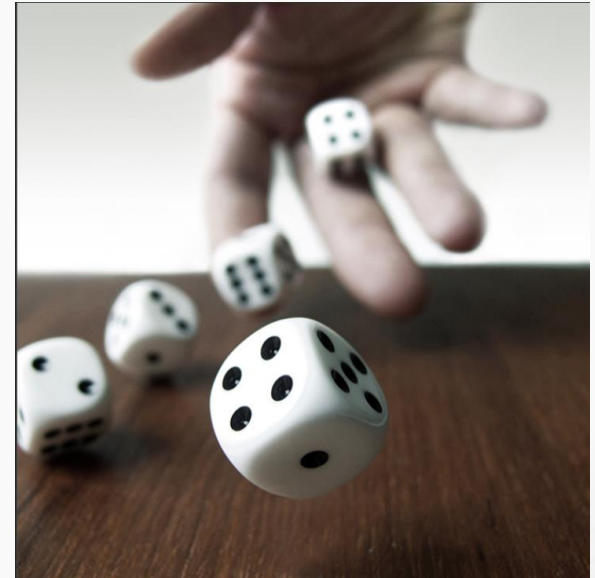
- Consider a sequence outcome source.



- Terms in this course
  - Sample space:  $\mathcal{X}$
  - Random variable (*r.v.*):  $X$
  - Stochastic process:  $X_i = X(t = i)$
  - Outcome of  $\mathcal{X}$  or realization of  $X$ :  $x$
  - Cardinality of set  $\mathcal{X}$  (the number of elements):  $|\mathcal{X}|$
- Joint probability mass function (*p.m.f.*)
$$Pr(X_0 = x_0, X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_{n-1} = x_{n-1}) = p(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$$

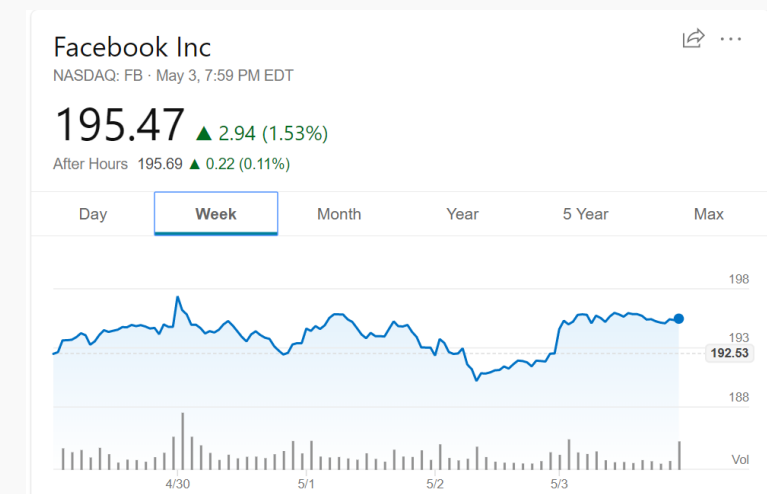
# Revisit: What is a **Stochastic Process**?

- Tossing the Dice for once
  - It is a discrete **random variable**. (value 1-6)
- What if I toss the dice every hour in a day for 24 times?
  - The **evolution in time** is included.
  - It is now a **stochastic process**.
  - Discrete in both time and amplitude.
- A stochastic process is **a collection of random variables**.
- It describes **how a random event varies with time**.



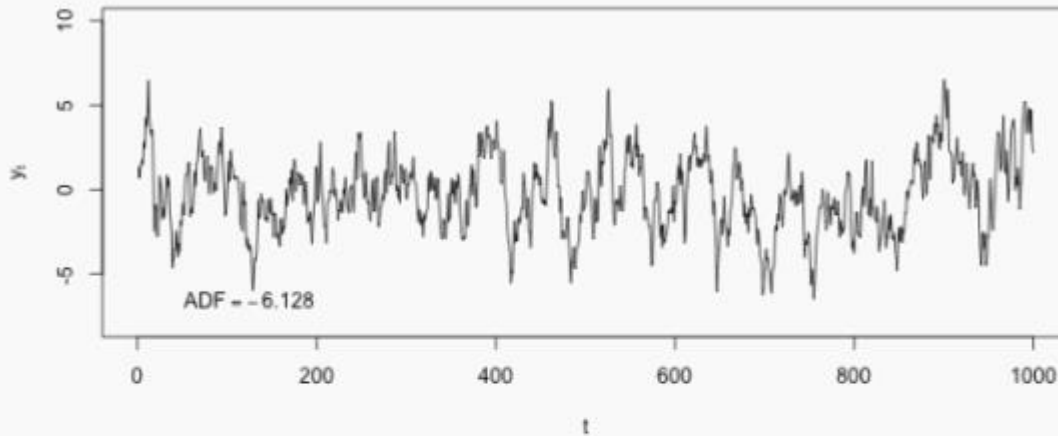
# Revisit: Examples of Stochastic Processes

- Traffic on a highway during a day
- Stock price during a week

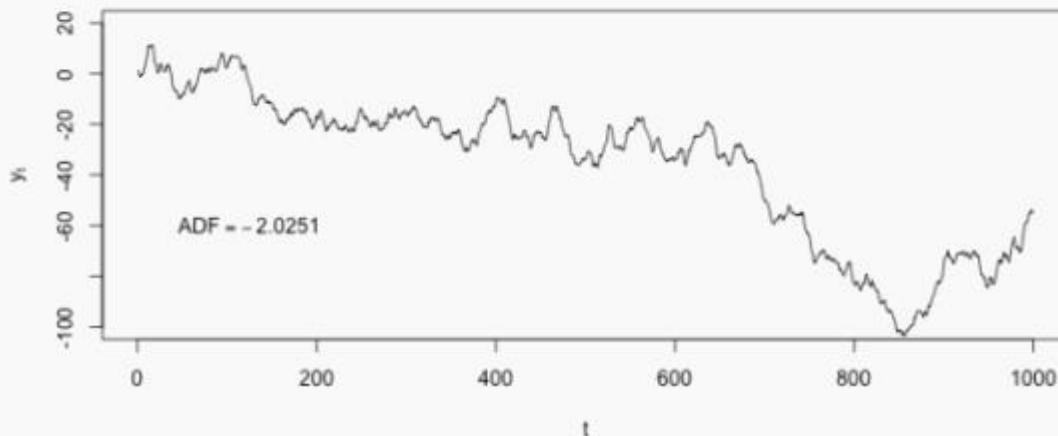


# Revisit: **Stationary** processes

Stationary Time Series



Non-stationary Time Series



- A stochastic process  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$  is said to be a stationary process if for all  $n, s, t, \dots, t_n$ , the random vectors  $X(t_1), \dots, X(t_n)$  and  $X(t_1 + s), \dots, X(t_n + s)$  have the same joint distribution.
- In mathematics, a stationary process (or strict(ly) stationary process or strong(ly) stationary process) is a stochastic process whose **joint probability distribution does not change when shifted in time or space.**



# How to measure the uncertainty of a stochastic process?

- Characterize uncertainty: **entropy**
  - Basic definition based on a random variable
  - Extension: **entropy of a stochastic process**
- Intuition
  - If a stochastic process is **memoryless**, its uncertainty should be the same as that of a random variable at given time  $t$ .
  - If a stochastic process **has memory**, the information carried by later messages is less than that carried by earlier messages.
- When the length of the sample sequence  $n$  approaches to infinity, **how does the entropy of the sequence grow with  $n$ ?**

output sequence



# Entropy rate: motivation

- In case of a stochastic process, the **average entropy per symbol** is defined as

$$H_n(\mathcal{X}) = \frac{H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}{n}.$$



how does it grow with  $n$ ?

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H_n(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow ?$$

# Entropy rate: definition

- **Entropy rate:** The entropy rate of a stochastic processes  $\{X_i\}$  is defined by

$$H(\mathcal{X}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H_n(\mathcal{X}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}{n}$$

when the limit exists.

per symbol entropy of the  $n$  r.v.'s

- **Conditional entropy rate:** We can also define a related quantity for entropy rate:

$$H'(\mathcal{X}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(X_n | X_{n-1}, X_{n-2}, \dots, X_1)$$

when the limit exists.

conditional entropy of the last r.v.  
given the past history



# Entropy rate: example

#1 sequence of independent identical distributed (*i.i.d.*) random variables

$$H(\mathcal{X}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{nH(X_1)}{n} = H(X_1)$$

#2 sequence of independent, but not identically distributed random variables

$$H(\mathcal{X}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n H(X_i)}{n} \rightarrow ?$$

For some distributions,  $H(\mathcal{X})$  **does not** exist.

# Entropy rate theorem

- **Theorem** For a **stationary** stochastic process, the limits of entropy rate and conditional entropy rate **exist** and are **equal**, i.e.

$$H(\mathcal{X}) = H'(\mathcal{X}).$$

- **Proof:**
  - $H(X_n|X_{n-1}, X_{n-2}, \dots, X_1)$  has a limit  $H'(\mathcal{X})$ .
  - $H(\mathcal{X}) = H'(\mathcal{X})$ .

# Entropy rate theorem: proof

- **Theorem** For a **stationary** stochastic process,  $H(X_n|X_{n-1}, X_{n-2}, \dots, X_1)$  is non-increasing in  $n$  and has a limit  $H'(\mathcal{X})$ .

- Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} H(X_{n+1}|X_n, X_{n-1}, \dots, X_1) &\leq H(X_{n+1}|X_n, X_{n-1}, \dots, X_2) && H(X|Y) \leq H(X) \\ &= H(X_n|X_{n-1}, X_{n-2}, \dots, X_1) && \text{Stationarity} \end{aligned}$$

$H(X_n|X_{n-1}, X_{n-2}, \dots, X_1)$  is a decreasing sequence of nonnegative numbers.  
It has a limit,  $H'(\mathcal{X})$ .

# Entropy rate theorem: proof

- **Theorem** For a **stationary** stochastic process, the limits of entropy rate and conditional entropy rate **exist** and are **equal**, i.e.

$$H(\mathcal{X}) = H'(\mathcal{X}).$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} H(\mathcal{X}) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}{n} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n H(X_i | X_{i-1}, \dots, X_1) && \text{Chain rule} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(X_n | X_{n-1}, \dots, X_1) && \text{If } a_n \rightarrow a \text{ and } b_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i, \text{ then } b_n \rightarrow a. \\ &= H'(\mathcal{X}) \end{aligned}$$

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**What is a Markov source?**



# What is a Markov process?

- Definition: A discrete stochastic process  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  is said to be a **Markov chain** or a **Markov process** if

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_n = x_n, X_{n-1} = x_{n-1}, \dots, X_1 = x_1) \\ = \Pr(\textcolor{red}{X}_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | \textcolor{red}{X}_n = x_n)\end{aligned}$$

**Markov property:** Given the present state, the future and past states are independent.

- The Markov process is **time invariant** if

$$\Pr(X_{n+1} = b | X_n = a) = \Pr(X_2 = b | X_1 = a)$$

- A time-invariant Markov chain can be characterized by its **probability transition matrix**  $P = [P_{ij}]$

$$P_{ij} = \Pr\{X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i\}$$

# What is the entropy rate of a Markov process?

- The entropy rate of a typical case of stationary processes, **Markov** process, can be easily calculated.

$$\begin{aligned} H(\mathcal{X}) &= H'(\mathcal{X}) && \text{(Entropy rate theorem)} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(X_n | X_{n-1}, X_{n-2}, \dots, X_1) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(X_n | X_{n-1}) && \text{(Markovity)} \\ &= H(X_2 | X_1) && \text{(Stationarity)} \end{aligned}$$

- If a stationary Markov distribution is  $\mu_i$  and the transition matrix is  $P_{ij}$ , then

$$H(\mathcal{X}) = - \sum_{ij} \mu_i P_{ij} \log P_{ij}.$$



## ~~m~~-th order Markov source

- A source is generating random outcomes:  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i, \dots$
- The source has  $n$  possible outcomes.
- Let the **state**  $e_i$  be **a sequence of  $m$  outcomes**
- State space  $E = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_Q\}$ ,  $Q = n^m$
- Example: Consider a binary source generating sequence ..01100011..
- Assume  $m=2$ .
- Then we have four possible states  $Q=4$ .
- $e_1 = 00, e_2 = 01, e_3 = 10, e_4 = 11$
- What is a  $m$ -th order Markov source?

# $m$ -th order Markov source

If the output symbols and the state of source satisfying the following conditions, the source is called  **$m$ -th order Markov source**.

- 1 The **outcome** of source at this time point is only related to the **current state** of source

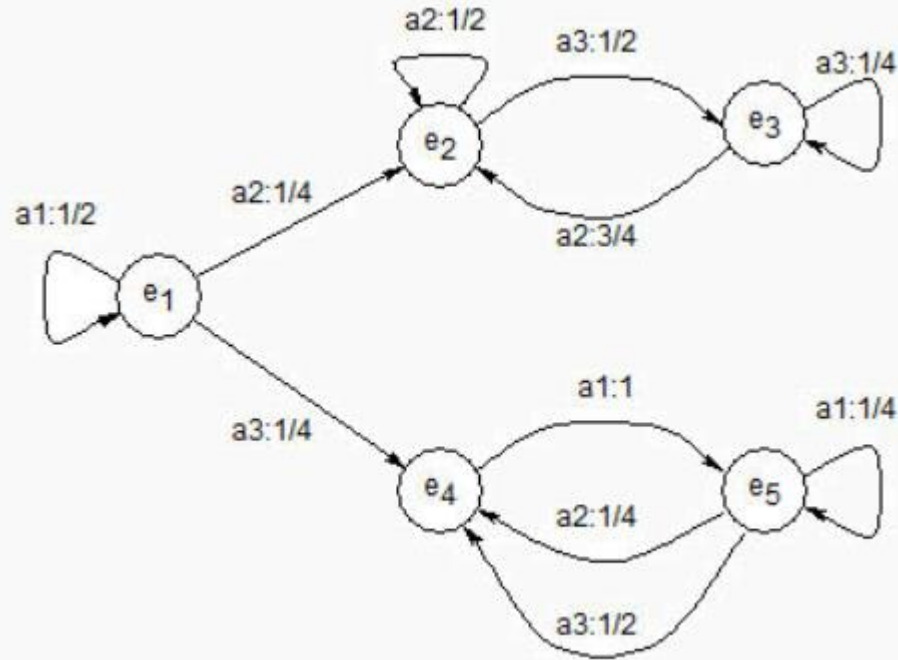
$$P(X_l = a_k | S_l = e_i, X_{l-1} = a_{k-1}, \dots) = p_l(X = a_k | S = e_i)$$

- 2 The **current state** of source is only determined by the **current outcome** and the **previous state**

$$P(S_l = e_j | X_{l-1} = a_{k-1}, S_{l-1} = e_i) = \begin{cases} 0, \\ 1. \end{cases}$$

- 3 What is state  $e_i$ ?
  - State represents a realization of the previous  $m$  output random variables.
  - e.g.  $e_i = \{a_{k1}, a_{k2}, \dots, a_{km}\}$

# Markov source: example



$$A = \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$$

$$E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5\}$$

$$P(X_l = a_1 | S_l = e_1) = 1/2$$

$$P(X_l = a_2 | S_l = e_2) = 1/2$$

$$P(X_l = a_2 | S_l = e_1) = 1/4$$

$$P(S_l = e_2 | X_{l-1} = a_1, S_{l-1} = e_1) = 0$$

$$P(S_l = e_1 | X_{l-1} = a_1, S_{l-1} = e_1) = 1$$

$$P(S_l = e_4 | X_{l-1} = a_2, S_{l-1} = e_1) = 0$$

$$P(S_l = e_2 | X_{l-1} = a_2, S_{l-1} = e_1) = 1$$

# Entropy rate of Markov sources

Given the  $m$ -th order  $n$ -ary Markov source.

- $m$  is the number of related previous outcomes.
- $n$  is the number of elements in sample space.
- State space  $S = \{e_i\}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n^m$ .
- Transition probability:  $P_{ij} = p(e_j|e_i)$ .
- Stationary probability:  $\mu_j = \lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} p(e_j)$ .

Then, the entropy rate is

$$\begin{aligned} H(\mathcal{X}) &= H'(\mathcal{X}) = H(X_{m+1}|X_m, X_{m-1}, \dots, X_1) \\ &= - \sum_{i=1}^{n^m} \sum_{j=1}^{n^m} p(e_i) p(e_j|e_i) \log p(e_j|e_i) \\ &= - \sum_{i,j} \mu_i P_{ij} \log P_{ij}. \end{aligned}$$

# Markov source: example #1

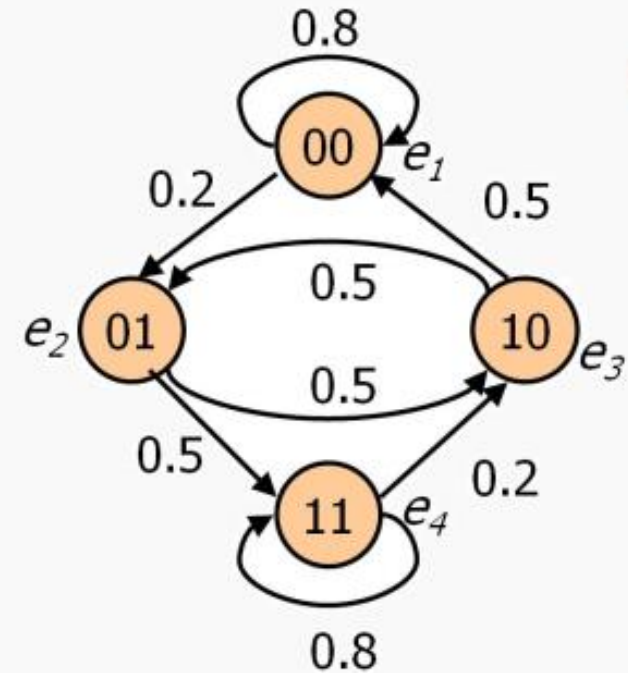
A 2nd order and 2-ary Markov source.

$X = \{0, 1\}$ .

Total  $2^2 = 4$  states.

$S = \{e_1 = 00, e_2 = 01, e_3 = 10, e_4 = 11\}$ .

**Please calculate its entropy rate.**



$$H(\mathcal{X}) = - \sum_{ij} \mu_i P_{ij} \log P_{ij}.$$

State probability

Transition probability

# Markov source: solution #1

A 2nd order and 2-ary Markov source.

$X = \{0, 1\}$ .

Total  $2^2 = 4$  states.

$S = \{e_1 = 00, e_2 = 01, e_3 = 10, e_4 = 11\}$ .

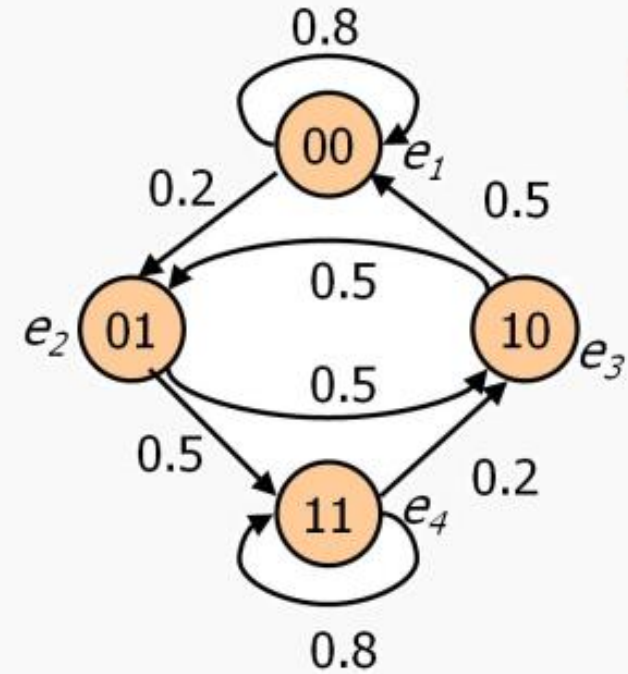
The transition probabilities are:

$$p(e_1|e_1) = 0.8, p(e_2|e_1) = 0.2,$$

$$p(e_4|e_2) = 0.5, p(e_3|e_2) = 0.5,$$

$$p(e_1|e_3) = 0.5, p(e_2|e_3) = 0.5,$$

$$p(e_3|e_4) = 0.2, p(e_4|e_4) = 0.8.$$





# Markov source: solution #1

The probability of each state:

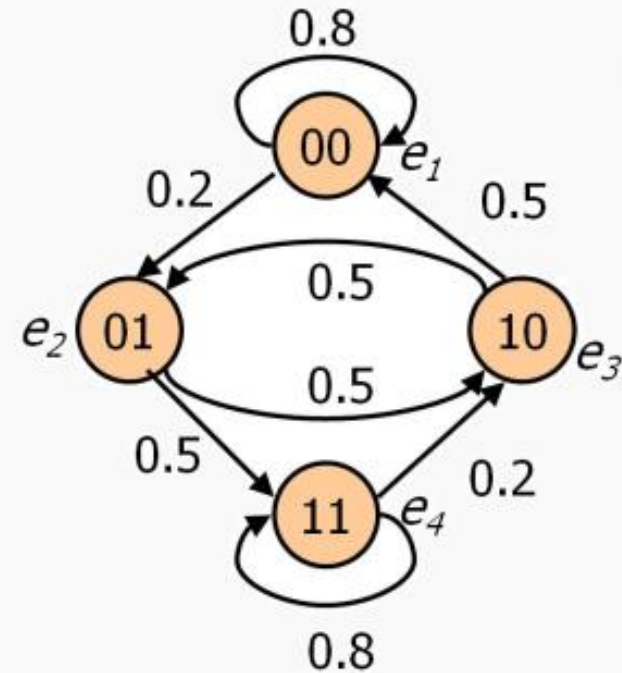
$$\begin{cases} p(e_1) = 0.8p(e_1) + 0.5p(e_3), \\ p(e_2) = 0.2p(e_1) + 0.5p(e_3), \\ p(e_3) = 0.5p(e_2) + 0.2p(e_4), \\ p(e_4) = 0.5p(e_2) + 0.8p(e_4), \\ p(e_1) + p(e_2) + p(e_3) + p(e_4) = 1. \end{cases}$$

Thus,

$$p(e_1) = p(e_4) = \frac{5}{14}, p(e_2) = p(e_3) = \frac{2}{14}.$$

The entropy rate

$$H(\mathcal{X}) = -\sum_{i=1}^4 \sum_{j=1}^4 p(e_i) p(e_j | e_i) \log p(e_j | e_i) = 0.8 \text{ bits/symbol.}$$





# Information Sources

Real discrete sources (most are **un-stationary**)

① Assume **stationary**

Stationary source,  $H_\infty$

严格来讲，大多是关联（记忆）长度为无穷大的多符号信源。

对实际信源，其所提供的信息量应该用  $H_\infty$  衡量。

但涉及到求解无穷维联合概率分布的问题。

将实际信源近似为 多符号信源 或  $m$  阶马尔可夫信源。

# Information Sources

Real discrete sources (most are **un-stationary**)

① Assume **stationary**

Stationary source,  $H_\infty$

② Assume **limited memory**

$m$ -th order Markov source,  $H_{m+1}$

③ Assume **no memory**

Stationary source without memory,  $H_1 = H(X)$

④ Assume **i.i.d.**

Extension of single outcome source,  $H_0 = H(X)$

# Information Sources: Markov sources

When we use Markov sources as an approximation, it is apparent that it is **more accurate for a larger m**. We then have

$$H_{\infty} \leq H_{m+1} \triangleq H(X_{m+1}/X_1 X_2 \cdots X_m) \leq \cdots \leq H_{1+1} \triangleq H(X_2/X_1)$$

$$\leq \underline{H_{0+1} \triangleq H(X)} \leq \underline{H_0 = \log n}$$

0-order Markov  
source (no memory)

Uniform-distributed  
source

1-order Markov source

**Applications: Markov Models for Natural Language**

# Markov Models for Natural Language: Analysis 1

英语中包含26个英文字母，假设不区分大小写，并只有空格一个标点符号。

**分析1：**对英语信源，最粗略的近似可以如何处理？

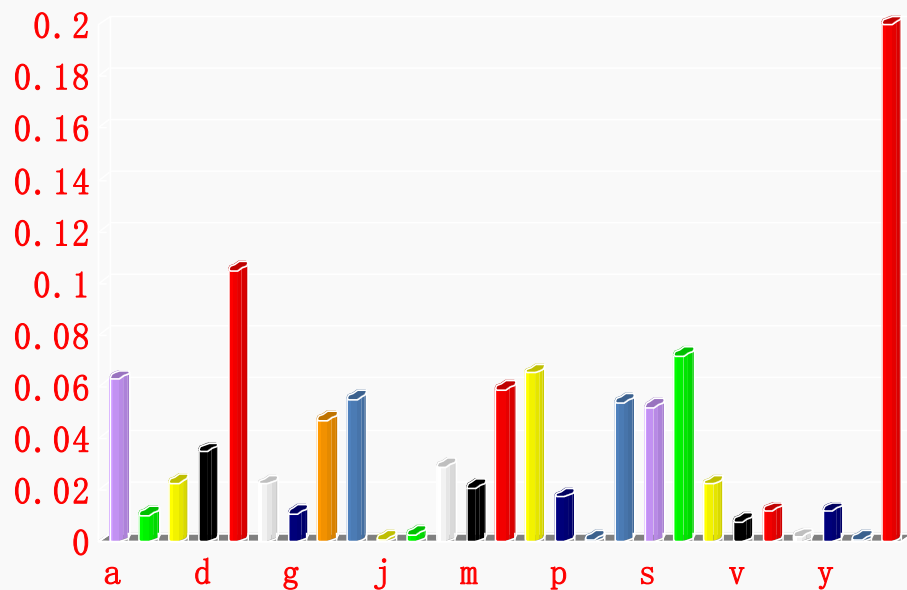
**回答：**假设认为前后符号间**不相关**，并且所有27个符号**等概率分布**。

$$H_0 = \log 27 \approx 4.76 \text{ 比特/符号}$$

**为信源的最大熵**

# Markov Models for Natural Language: Question 1

实际英语信源，并非等概率分布



符号	概率	符号	概率	符号	概率
空格	0.2	S	0.052	Y, W	0.012
E	0.105	H	0.047	G	0.011
T	0.072	D	0.035	B	0.0105
O	0.0654	L	0.029	V	0.008
A	0.063	C	0.023	K	0.003
N	0.059	F, U	0.0225	X	0.002
I	0.055	M	0.021	J, Q	0.001
R	0.054	P	0.0175	Z	0.001

英文字母出现概率统计

# Markov Models for Natural Language: Analysis 2

**分析2：考虑英语符号概率分布，不考虑符号间依赖关系的情况下，平均符号熵等于多少？**

$$H_{0+1} = -p(a) \cdot \log p(a) - p(b) \cdot \log p(b) \\ - \dots - p(\text{空格}) \cdot \log p(\text{空格})$$

$\approx 4.03$  比特/符号

**问题：**上述信源与实际情况近似到何种程度？

**分析：**按表的概率分布，随机选择英语字母得到一个信源输出序列为：

AI\_NGAE\_ITE\_NNR\_ASAEV\_OTE\_BAINTHA\_HYROO  
\_POER\_SETRYGA\_IETRWCO\_EHDUARU\_EUEU\_C\_FT\_  
\_NSREM\_DIY\_EESE\_F\_O\_SRIŠ\_R\_UNNASHOR...

# Markov Models for Natural Language: Analysis 3

**分析3：考虑符号间依赖关系，可近似为马尔可夫信源。**

## **1. 近似为一阶马尔可夫信源**

前一个 字母	后一个 字母	条件 概率
A	A	$P(A/A)$
	B	$P(B/A)$
	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
	空格	$P(\text{空格}/A)$
B	A	$P(A/B)$
	B	$P(B/B)$
	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
	空格	$P(\text{空格}/B)$

$$\begin{aligned} H_{1+1} &= H(X_2/X_1) \\ &= - \sum_{i=1}^{27} \sum_{j=1}^{27} p(x_i) \cdot p(x_j/x_i) \cdot \log p(x_j/x_i) \\ &\approx 3.32 \text{ 比特/符号} \end{aligned}$$

**方法：** 首字母可以任意选择。

首字母选定后，按条件概率选第二个字母。

第二个字母选定后，再按条件概率选第三个。



# Markov Models for Natural Language: Analysis 3 (cont'd)

## 2. 类似地，近似为二阶马尔可夫信源。

$$H_{2+1} = H(X_3 / X_1 X_2) \approx 3.1 \text{ 比特/符号}$$

输出结果实例：

IANKS CAN OU ANG RLER THTTED OF TO SHO  
R OF TO HÄVEMEM Ā I MĀND AND BŪT WHI  
SS ITÄBLŸ THERVERĒER...

## 3. 类似地，可将英语信源近似为三阶、四阶 ... 。

⋮

$$H_{\infty} \approx 1.4 \text{ 比特/符号}$$

依赖关系越多，及马尔科夫信源的阶数越高，输出的序列越接近实际情况。

# Markov Models for Natural Language

$$H_{\infty} \approx 1.4 \leq \dots \leq H_{2+1} \approx 3.1 < H_{1+1} \approx 3.32 < H_{0+1} \approx 4.03 \leq H_0 \approx 4.76$$



上述结果，验证了随着阶数 $m$ 的增加，符号相关性增加，熵值（平均每个符号所携带的信息量）会降低。

实际英语：

Hello, My name is Lai. How are you

L个字符

问题：携带的信息量？

$$L \cdot H_{\infty}$$

# Applications: Markov Models for Natural Language

- Question: **What is the entropy of natural language?**
- Shannon approximated the statistical structure of a piece of text using a simple mathematical model known as **a Markov model**.
- For example, with an input text `a g g c g a g g g a g c g g c a g g g g ...`
  - Markov model with order 0: each letter is **independently** chosen.
  - However, there is a **high correlation** among successive letters in an English word or sentence. (as well as Chinese and other languages)



Can you establish a more refined statistical model for any given text using Markov chain?

**Course  
Project!**

# Applications: Markov Models for Natural Language

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Which language carries more information,  
Chinese or English?

# 12

## Differential Entropy: from discrete to **continuous**

1. Motivation

2. Definition

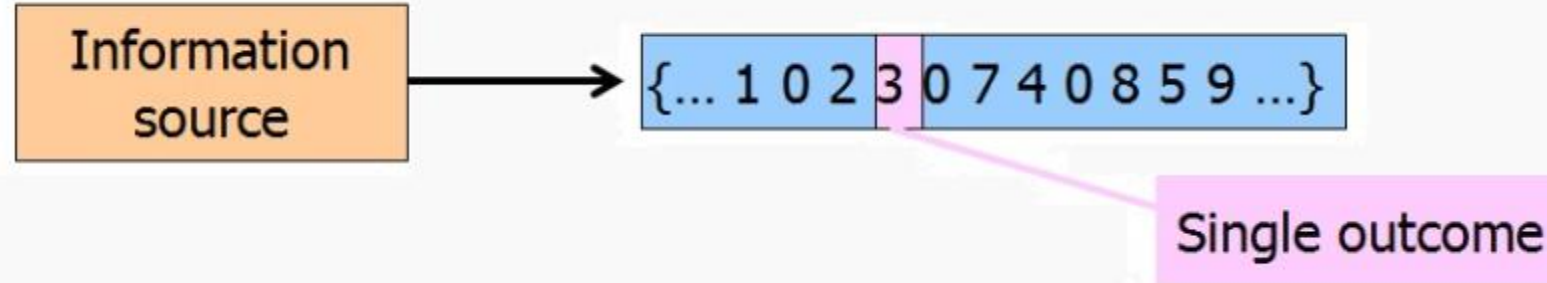
3. Properties

4. Examples

5. Maximum Entropy Theorems

# So far, we consider **discrete sources**

- Outcome of the source:
  - **Discrete Single outcome**



- Model:
- Measure of information: entropy

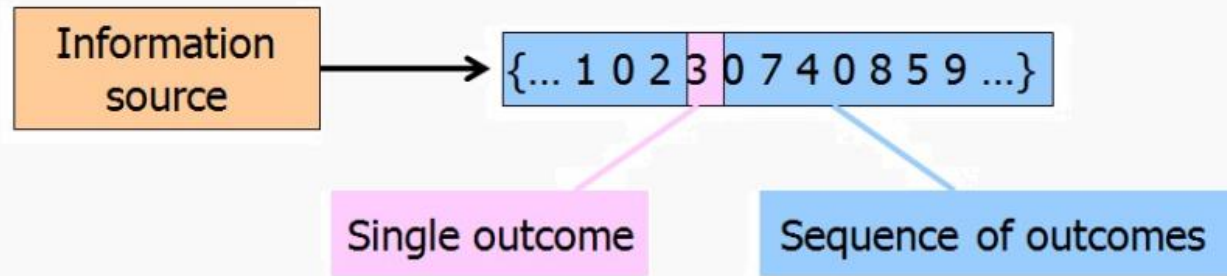


$$H(X) = - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p(x) \log [p(x)]$$

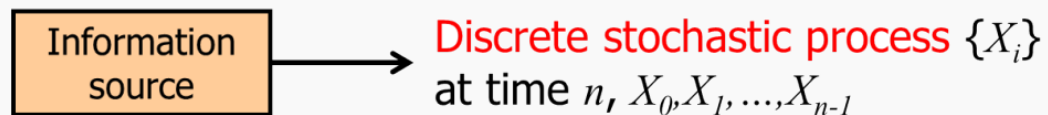


# So far, we consider **discrete sources**

- Outcome of the source:
  - **Discrete sequence outcome**



- Model:



- Measure of information: entropy rate

$$H(\mathcal{X}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H_n(\mathcal{X}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}{n}$$

# How about **continuous** sources?

- In physical world, the output of sources **are usually continuous**.



Audio signal, Video signal...

Information  
source



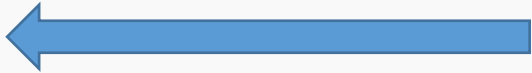
Continuous outcome



What is the information measure  
for continuous sources?

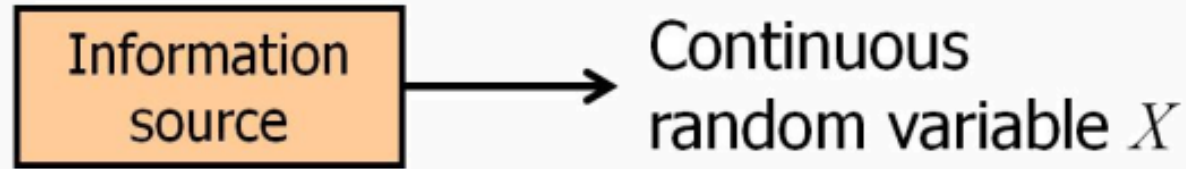
# Sources studied in our course

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- We study the ideal sources with **good properties**, then use them to approximate real sources.
  - **Discrete** Source
    - **Single Outcome** Discrete Source
    - **Outcome sequence** Discrete Source
      - Discrete stationary **memoryless** source
      - Discrete stationary source **with memory**
  - **Continuous** source 
    - Waveform source

# Continuous source: system model

- Consider a continuous source.



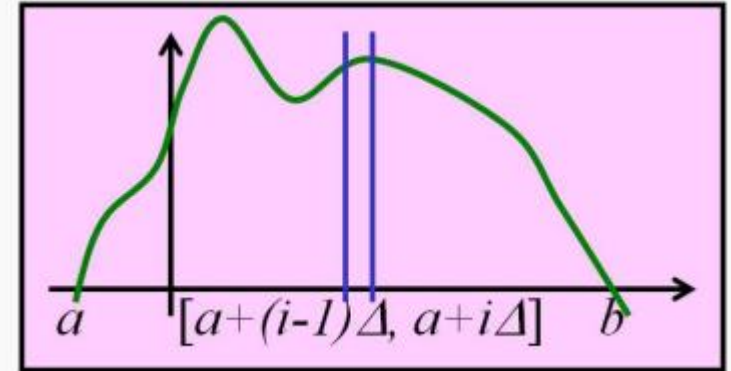
- Terms in this lecture
  - Sample space:  $\mathcal{X}$
  - Random variable (*r.v.*):  $X$
  - Outcome of  $\mathcal{X}$  or realization of  $X$  :  $x$
  - Cardinality of set  $\mathcal{X}$  (the number of elements):  $|\mathcal{X}|$
- Cumulative distribution function (c.d.f)
  - $F(x) = \Pr(X \leq x)$
- Probability density function (*p.d.f*)  $f(x)$

$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(u) du \quad f_x(x) = \frac{dF(x)}{dx}$$

# How to measure the information of a continuous source?

- Generate a discrete source to simulate continuous source

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} R \\ f(x) \end{array} \right], \int_R f(x) dx = 1$$



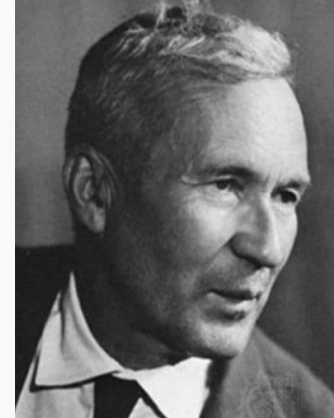
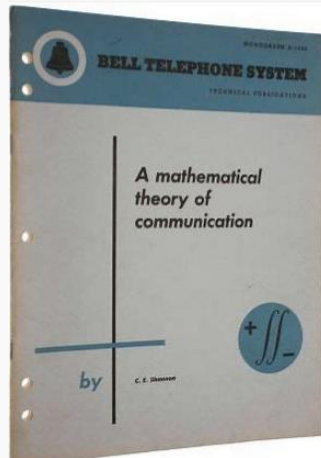
$$\text{Assume } p_i = P(a + (i-1)\Delta \leq X \leq a + i\Delta) = \int_{a+(i-1)\Delta}^{a+i\Delta} f(x) dx = \Delta f(x_i)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty, \Delta \rightarrow 0} H(X) &= - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty, \Delta \rightarrow 0} \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log p_i = - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty, \Delta \rightarrow 0} \sum_{i=1}^n [\Delta f(x_i)] \log [\Delta f(x_i)] \\ &= - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty, \Delta \rightarrow 0} \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta f(x_i) \log f(x_i) - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty, \Delta \rightarrow 0} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) \Delta \log \Delta \right) \\ &= - \int_a^b [f(x) \log f(x)] dx - \lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \log \Delta \end{aligned}$$

when  $\Delta \rightarrow 0$ ,  $H(X) \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow$  the continuous entropy does not exist.

# Differential entropy: a short history

- The concept of differential entropy was proposed first in his 1948 landmark paper by C. Shannon.
- The rigorous definition of differential entropy and mutual information of continuous variables were provided by Kolmogorov [2] and Pinsker [3].



A. Kolmogorov



M. S. Pinsker

[2] A. N. Kolmogorov, "On the Shannon theory of information transmission in the case of continuous signals," IRE Transactions on Information Theory, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 102-108, Dec. 1956.

[3] M. S. Pinsker, "Information and stability of random variables and processes," Izd. Akad. Nauk, 1960, translated by A. Feinstein in 1964.



# Differential entropy: definition

- A continuous random variable contains **infinite information**.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty, \Delta \rightarrow 0} H(X) = - \int_a^b [f(x) \log f(x)] dx - \lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \log \Delta$$

- Define **differential entropy** as the information measure of a continuous random variable.

$$h(X) = h(f) = - \int_S f(x) \log f(x) dx$$

- $S$  is the support set of the *r.v.*  $X$
- $f(x)$  is the *p.d.f.* of  $X$
- Since  $h(X)$  only depends on the *p.d.f.*, it can also be marked as  $h(X) = h(f)$

# Differential entropy: remarks

- A continuous random variable contains **infinite information**.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty, \Delta \rightarrow 0} H(X) = - \int_a^b [f(x) \log f(x)] dx - \lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \log \Delta$$

- Define **differential entropy** as the information measure of a continuous random variable.

$$h(X) = h(f) = - \int_S f(x) \log f(x) dx$$

- It is **not the absolute entropy** of a continuous source.
- It **cannot** represent the average uncertainty/information of the source.
- It is a **relative value** with the reference point  $-\lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \log \Delta$
- It represents the **difference** between former and later source entropy

# Joint/conditional differential entropy

- Joint differential entropy

$$h(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) = - \int_S f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \log f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) dx_1 dx_2 \dots dx_n$$

- Conditional differential entropy

$$\begin{aligned} h(X|Y) &= - \int f(x, y) \log f(x|y) dx dy \\ h(X, Y) &= h(X) + h(Y|X) \\ h(X, Y) &\leq h(X) + h(Y) \end{aligned}$$

# Relative entropy and mutual information

- Relative entropy

$$D(f||g) = \int f \log \left( \frac{f}{g} \right)$$

- Mutual information

$$I(X; Y) = \int f(x, y) \log \left[ \frac{f(x, y)}{f(x)f(y)} \right] dx dy$$

# Relative entropy and mutual information: relationship

$$I(X; Y) = h(Y) - h(Y|X)$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} I(X; Y) &= D(f(x, y) || f(x)f(y)) \\ &= \int \int f(x, y) \log \left[ \frac{f(x, y)}{f(x)f(y)} \right] dx dy \\ &= \int \int f(x, y) \log \left[ \frac{f(x, y)}{f(x)f(y)} \right] dx dy \\ &= h(X) - h(X|Y) \\ &= h(Y) - h(Y|X) \end{aligned}$$

# Differential entropy: properties

Non-negativity of relative entropy and its corollary

- $D(f||g)$

$$D(f||g) \geq 0$$

$$D(f||g) = 0 \iff f(x) = g(x) \text{ almost everywhere}$$

- $I(X; Y)$

$$I(X; Y) \geq 0$$

$$I(X; Y) = 0 \iff f(x, y) = f(x)f(y)$$

- $h(X|Y)$

$$h(X|Y) \leq h(X)$$

$$h(X|Y) = h(X) \iff f(x, y) = f(x)f(y)$$



# Differential entropy: properties

- Chain rule for differential entropy

$$h(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n h(X_i | X_{i-1}, X_{i-2}, \dots, X_1)$$

- Independent bound

$$h(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n h(X_i)$$

- Translations and rotations

$$\begin{aligned} h(X + C) &= h(X) \\ h(aX) &= h(X) + \log(|a|) \\ h(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}) &= h(\mathbf{X}) + \log(|\mathbf{A}|) \end{aligned}$$

- For discrete source,  $H(aX)$  v.s.  $H(X)$ ?

# Differential entropy: properties

- Proof:

Let  $Y = aX$ . Then  $f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{|a|} f_X(\frac{y}{a})$ , and

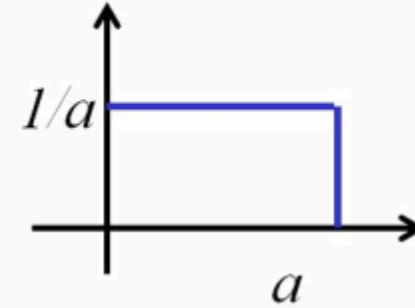
$$\begin{aligned} h(aX) &= - \int f_Y(y) \log f_Y(y) dy \\ &= - \int \frac{1}{|a|} f_X\left(\frac{y}{a}\right) \log \left( \frac{1}{|a|} f_X\left(\frac{y}{a}\right) \right) dy \\ &= - \int f_X(x) \log (f_X(x)) dx + \log |a| \\ &= h(X) + \log |a|. \end{aligned}$$

- Note that when  $a > 1$ ,  $\log |a| > 0$ . This implies  $h(aX) > h(X)$ .
- The operation of  $aX$  physically extend  $X$  axis. The shape of the probability density function  $f_X(x)$  actually is widened and lowered by  $f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{|a|} f_X(\frac{y}{a})$ . Hence, the uncertainty of  $H(aX)$  increases compared with  $H(X)$ .

# Examples of continuous source

- Example #1: Uniform distribution

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{a}, & 0 \leq x \leq a \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



- Differential entropy

$$h(X) = - \int_S f(x) \log f(x) dx = - \int_0^a \frac{1}{a} \log \left( \frac{1}{a} \right) dx = \log(a)$$

- Comments

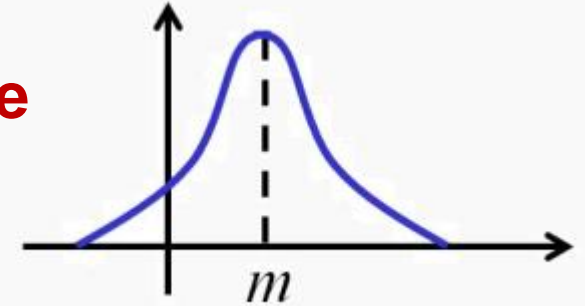
- If  $a < 1$ ,  $\log(a) < 0$ , thus differential entropy can be **negative**.

# Examples of continuous source

- Example #2: normal distribution

**Gaussian source**

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-m)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



- Differential entropy

$$\begin{aligned} h(X) &= - \int f(x) \ln f(x) dx \\ &= - \int f(x) \left[ -\frac{(x-m)^2}{2\sigma^2} - \ln(\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}) \right] dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \int f(x)(x-m)^2 dx + \frac{1}{2} \ln(2\pi\sigma^2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \ln(e) + \frac{1}{2} \ln(2\pi\sigma^2) = \frac{1}{2} \ln(2\pi e\sigma^2) \text{ nats} \end{aligned}$$

# Maximum entropy theorems for continuous source

- Uniform p.d.f differential entropy bound  
Uniform distribution maximizes the differential entropy over all distributions with the **same range**  $[a, b]$ .

$$h(X) \leq \log \prod_{i=1}^n (b_i - a_i)$$

- Gaussian p.d.f differential entropy bound  
Multivariate normal distribution maximizes the differential entropy over all distributions with the **same covariance**.

$$h(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \leq \frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi e)^n |K| \text{ bits},$$

where  $|K|$  is the determinant of the covariance matrix  $K$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Given continuous r.v.  $X$  with mean  $m$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ , **the differential entropy is maximized when it follows Gaussian distribution.**

# 本节学习目标

## 1. 熵率

- 写出定义与表达式
- 说出物理意义
- 计算马尔科夫信源熵率

## 2. 微分熵

- 写出定义与表达式
- 说出 $\geq 3$ 条微分熵的性质
- 写出均匀分布与正态分布的微分熵
- 说出 $\geq 3$ 条微分熵与熵之间的差异

### 重难点:

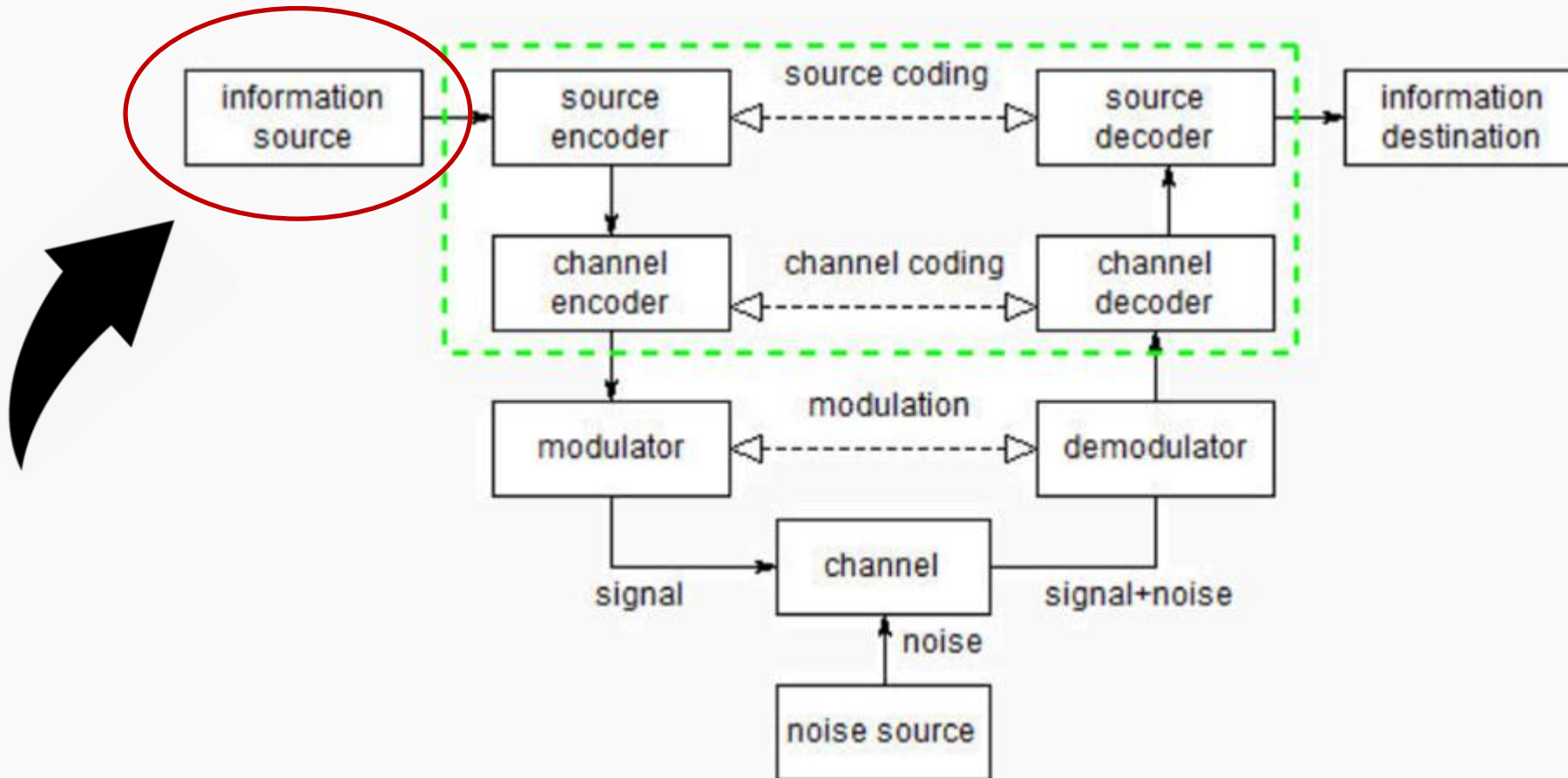
- 信源拓展: 从单输出到序列+从离散到连续
- 概念拓展: 熵率+微分熵
- 理解相关性与差异
- 计算: Markov source



# Summary of Chapter 2

# Summary: Focus on the **Object**

- Model of Communication Systems



# Summary: Ask the Key Question

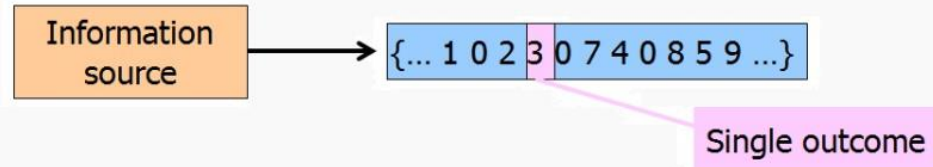
**How much information is transmitted?**

**How much information is lost?**



**Fundamental Question:  
How to quantify information?**

# Summary: Gone with the **Logic**

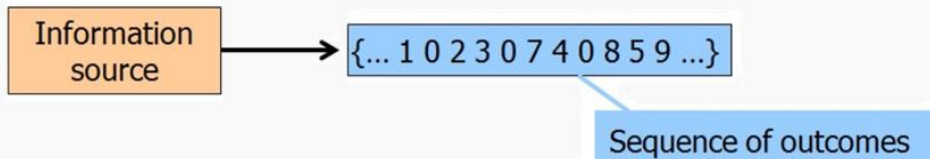


Discrete single outcome: **Entropy**

- ✓ Joint entropy
- ✓ Conditional entropy
- ✓ Relative entropy
- ✓ Mutual information

Single to Sequence: **Entropy rate**

Discrete to Continuous: **Differential entropy**



**Start with simple examples**

**Extend to complex cases**

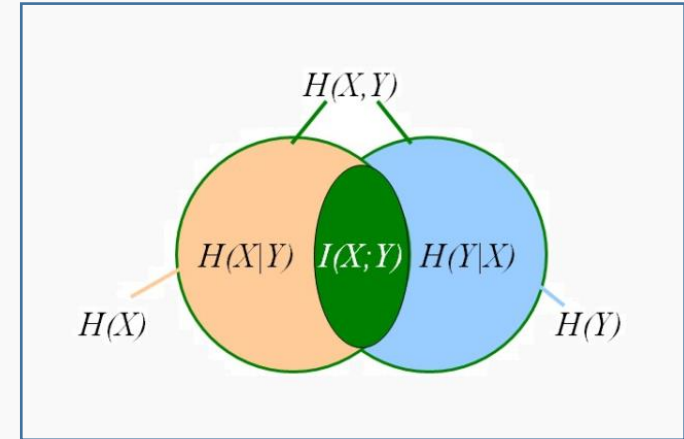
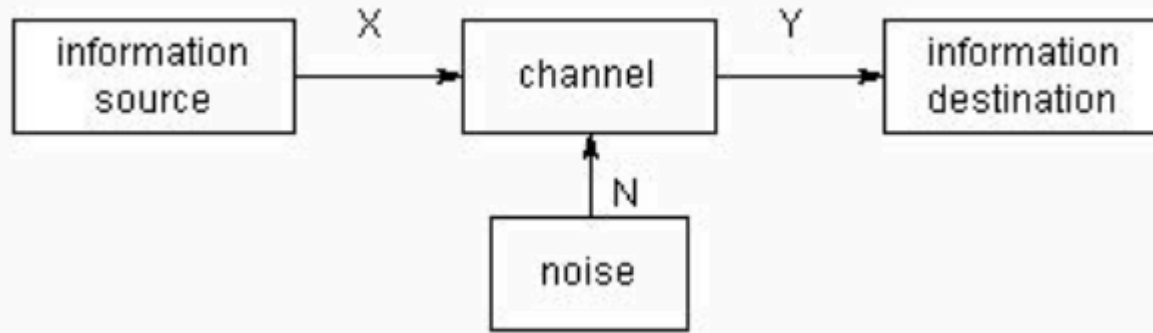
# Summary: Concepts

- Self-Information  $I(x)$ 
  - Measure of uncertainty of single outcome
  - Non-negative
- Entropy  $H(X)$ 
  - $H(X) = E_X[I(x)]$
  - Measure of uncertainty of information source
  - Non-negative
- Relative entropy  $D(p(x)||q(x))$ 
  - Measure of similarity of distributions
  - Non-negative
- Mutual information  $I(X; Y)$ 
  - $I(X; Y) = D[p(x, y)||p(x)p(y)] = E_{X,Y}[I(x; y)]$
  - Measure of similarity between joint and product *p.m.f.*'s
  - Special case of relative entropy (Non-negative)

# Summary: **Properties** of Entropies

Non-negativity	$H(X) \geq 0$
Chain Rule	$H(X, Y) = H(X) + H(Y X)$
Uniform p.m.f. maximization	$H(X) \leq \log( X )$
Conditional reduction	$H(X Y) \leq H(X)$
Independence bound	$H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \leq \sum_i H(X_i)$

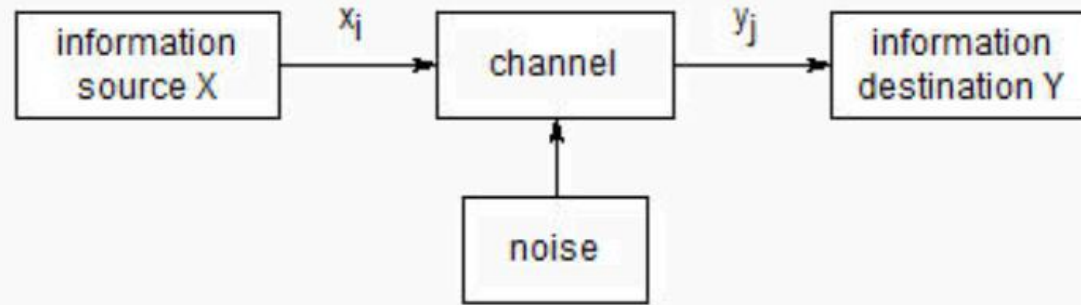
# Summary: Physical meaning



- ✓  $H(X|Y)$ : loss entropy
- ✓  $H(Y|X)$ : noise entropy
- ✓  $I(X;Y)$ : information transmitted from source to destination



# Summary: **Physical meaning**



- Mutual information of **realization at the micro-level**

- $I(x_i; y_j) = \log \left[ \frac{p(x_i, y_j)}{p(x_i)p(y_j)} \right] = \log \left[ \frac{p(x_i|y_j)}{p(x_i)} \right] = \log \left[ \frac{1}{p(x_i)} \right] - \log \left[ \frac{1}{p(x_i|y_j)} \right]$
- At destination:  $I(x_i; y_j) = I(x_i) - I(x_i|y_j)$
- At source:  $I(y_j; x_i) = I(y_j) - I(y_j|x_i)$
- From system:  $I(x_i; y_j) = I(x_i) + I(y_j) - I(x_i, y_j)$

- Mutual information at the macro-level

$$I(X; Y) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} p(x, y) \log \left[ \frac{p(x, y)}{p(x)p(y)} \right] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} p(x)p(y|x) \log \left[ \frac{p(y|x)}{p(y)} \right]$$

# Thank you!

My Homepage



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