

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING  
EXAMINATIONS 2017

MSc and EEE/EIE PART IV: MEng and ACGI

**Corrected copy**

**INFORMATION THEORY**

Friday, 19 May 10:00 am

Time allowed: 3:00 hours

**There are FOUR questions on this paper.**

**Answer ALL questions.**

*All questions carry equal marks*

**Any special instructions for invigilators and information for candidates are on page 1.**

Examiners responsible      First Marker(s) :      C. Ling  
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## Information for students

### *Notation:*

- (a) Random variables are shown in Tahoma font.  $x$ ,  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}$  denote a random scalar, vector and matrix respectively.
- (b) The size of a set  $A$  is denoted by  $|A|$ .
- (c) By default, the logarithm is to the base 2.
- (d)  $\oplus$  denotes the exclusive-or operation, or modulo-2 addition.
- (e) “i.i.d.” means “independent identically distributed”.
- (f)  $H(\cdot)$  is the entropy function.
- (g)  $C(x) = \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1+x)$  is the capacity function for the Gaussian channel in bits/channel use.

## The Questions

### I. Basics of information theory.

- a) Suppose  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are i.i.d. Bernoulli random variables taking values of 0 and 1 with equal probabilities, i.e.,  $P(x_i = 0) = 0.5$ . Let  $y = \max(x_1, x_2)$ . Compute the following entropy or mutual information terms:

i)  $H(y)$

ii)  $I(x_1; y)$

iii)  $I(x_1, x_2; y)$

[9]

- b) For  $\mathbf{p} = [\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}]$  and  $\mathbf{q} = [\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}]$ , compute the relative entropy terms  $D(\mathbf{p}||\mathbf{q})$  and  $D(\mathbf{q}||\mathbf{p})$ .

[6]

- c) Given two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , assume that  $X$  is uniformly distributed over the set  $X = \{1, \dots, M\}$ . Prove the following inequality that relates the mutual information  $I(X; Y)$  to the probability  $P(X = Y)$ :

$$I(X; Y) \geq P(X = Y) \log M - H(P(X = Y))$$

Hint: use Fano's inequality  $H(X|Y) \leq P(X \neq Y) \log M + H(P(X \neq Y))$ .

[10]

## 2. Typical sequences.

$\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  are discrete-valued random variables of length  $n$  where each pair  $(x_i, y_i)$  is drawn independently from the joint probability distribution function  $p_{xy}(x, y)$ . The jointly typical set  $J_\epsilon^{(n)}$  is the set of vector pairs satisfying the following conditions:

$$J_\epsilon^{(n)} = \left\{ \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} : \begin{aligned} & \left| -n^{-1} \log p_x(\mathbf{x}) - H(X) \right| < \epsilon, \\ & \left| -n^{-1} \log p_y(\mathbf{y}) - H(Y) \right| < \epsilon, \\ & \left| -n^{-1} \log p_{xy}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) - H(X, Y) \right| < \epsilon \end{aligned} \right\}$$

where  $p_x(x)$  and  $p_y(y)$  are the marginal probability distribution functions of  $x_i$  and  $y_i$ , respectively. The probability  $p_x(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_x(x_i)$ , and similarly for  $p_y(\mathbf{y})$  and  $p_{xy}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ .

a) Justify each step in the following derivation of the size of the jointly typical set:

$$\begin{aligned} (1-\epsilon)2^{n(H(X,Y)-\epsilon)} &\stackrel{n \gg N_\epsilon}{<} |J_\epsilon^{(n)}| \leq 2^{n(H(X,Y)+\epsilon)} \\ 1-\epsilon &\stackrel{(1)}{<} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_\epsilon^{(n)}} p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \stackrel{(2)}{\leq} |J_\epsilon^{(n)}| \max_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_\epsilon^{(n)}} p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \stackrel{(3)}{\leq} |J_\epsilon^{(n)}| 2^{-n(H(X,Y)-\epsilon)} \stackrel{(4)}{\Rightarrow} |J_\epsilon^{(n)}| \geq (1-\epsilon)2^{n(H(X,Y)-\epsilon)} \\ 1 &\stackrel{(5)}{\geq} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_\epsilon^{(n)}} p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \stackrel{(6)}{\geq} |J_\epsilon^{(n)}| \min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_\epsilon^{(n)}} p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \stackrel{(7)}{\geq} |J_\epsilon^{(n)}| 2^{-n(H(X,Y)+\epsilon)} \stackrel{(8)}{\Rightarrow} |J_\epsilon^{(n)}| \leq 2^{n(H(X,Y)+\epsilon)} \end{aligned}$$

[8]

b) Now suppose  $n = 7$ ,  $\epsilon = 0$ , and  $p_{xy}(x, y)$  given by

$p_{xy}(x, y)$	$y = 0$	$y = 1$
$x = 0$	3/7	1/7
$x = 1$	1/7	2/7

Define the typical set  $T_x = \{\mathbf{x} : -n^{-1} \log p_x(\mathbf{x}) = H(X)\}$  for  $\epsilon = 0$ .

- Calculate the probability  $P(\mathbf{x} \in T_x)$ .
- Calculate  $P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_0^{(7)} | \mathbf{x} \in T_x)$ .
- Determine the value of  $P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_0^{(7)})$ .
- If  $\mathbf{z}$  is a random vector, independent of  $\mathbf{x}$ , whose elements are independent Bernoulli variables with  $P(z_i = 0) = 4/7$ , calculate  $P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \in J_0^{(7)})$ .

[17]

3. Source and channel coding.

- a) Justify each step in the following proof that feedback does not increase the capacity of a discrete memoryless channel shown in Fig. 3.1.



Fig. 3.1. Discrete memoryless channel with feedback.

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(w; \mathbf{Y}) &\stackrel{(1)}{=} H(\mathbf{Y}) - H(\mathbf{Y} | w) \\
 &\stackrel{(2)}{=} H(\mathbf{Y}) - \sum_{i=1}^n H(Y_i | y_{1:i-1}, w) \\
 &\stackrel{(3)}{=} H(\mathbf{Y}) - \sum_{i=1}^n H(Y_i | y_{1:i-1}, w, x_i) \\
 &\stackrel{(4)}{=} H(\mathbf{Y}) - \sum_{i=1}^n H(Y_i | x_i) \\
 &\stackrel{(5)}{\leq} \sum_{i=1}^n H(Y_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n H(Y_i | x_i) \stackrel{(6)}{=} \sum_{i=1}^n I(x_i; Y_i) \stackrel{(7)}{\leq} nC
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 nR = H(W) &= H(W | \mathbf{Y}) + I(W; \mathbf{Y}) \stackrel{(8)}{\leq} 1 + nRP_e^{(n)} + nC \\
 \stackrel{(9)}{\Rightarrow} P_e^{(n)} &\geq \frac{R - C - n^{-1}}{R} \stackrel{(10)}{\Rightarrow} \text{Any rate } > C \text{ is unachievable}
 \end{aligned}$$

[10]

- b) Reverse water filling. Consider lossy source coding of  $X_1, X_2, X_3$ , which are independent zero-mean Gaussian information sources with different variances  $\sigma_1^2 = 1, \sigma_2^2 = 2, \sigma_3^2 = 4$ . Find the values of the rate-distortion function  $R(D)$  for the following cases ( $D$  is the average distortion):

- i)  $D = 0.5$ .
- ii)  $D = 1$ .
- iii)  $D = 2$ .

[15]

4. Network information theory.

- a) Broadcast channel. The Gaussian broadcast channel illustrated in Fig. 4.1 is a degraded broadcast channel, where  $Z_1, Z_2'$  are independent Gaussian noise components with zero means.

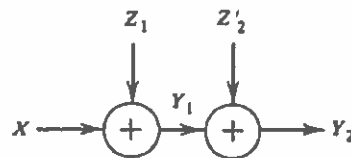


Fig. 4.1. The Gaussian broadcast channel.

- i) Show that  $X \rightarrow Y_1 \rightarrow Y_2$  forms a Markov chain.  
 ii) Describe an encoding and decoding strategy achieving the capacity region ( $0 < \alpha < 1$ )

$$R_1 \leq C\left(\frac{\alpha P}{N_1}\right)$$

$$R_2 \leq C\left(\frac{(1-\alpha)P}{\alpha P + N_2}\right)$$

[15]

- b) Multiple-access channel. Consider a binary erasure multiple access channel. This multi-access channel has binary inputs  $X_1, X_2 \in \{0, 1\}$ , and a ternary output  $Y = X_1 + X_2 \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ . There is no ambiguity in  $(X_1, X_2)$  if  $Y = 0$  or  $Y = 2$  is received; but  $Y = 1$  can result from either  $(0, 1)$  or  $(1, 0)$ . Find and sketch its capacity region.

[10]

