

Q 1.10.

$$H(p) = - \sum_{i=1}^k p_i \log p_i$$

for categorical distribution, the constraint should be:

$$\sum_{i=1}^k p_i = 1$$

To find the highest entropy, we use Lagrange multiplier

$$L(p, \lambda) = - \sum_{i=1}^k p_i \log(p_i) + \lambda \left( \sum_{i=1}^k p_i - 1 \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial p_i} = \frac{\partial (-p_i \log p_i)}{\partial p_i} + \lambda$$

$$= -\log p_i - p_i \cdot \frac{1}{p_i} + \lambda$$

$$= -\log p_i - 1 + \lambda$$

Let  $-\log p_i - 1 + \lambda = 0$ , we get

$$\log p_i = \lambda - 1.$$

This suggests for  $k$  categorical value, the probability for each category is the same,  $p_i = \frac{1}{k}$

To confirm  $p_i = \frac{1}{k}$  is the maximum entropy,

we compare  $H(p_i = \frac{1}{k}) = \log k \geq 0$  with

$$H(p_i = 1, p_{i \neq 1} = 0) = 0$$

So that when  $p_i = \frac{1}{k}$ , the categorical distribution has the highest entropy  $\log k$ .