

Problem 4

Consider a classification problem with:

- A target variable Y with K classes.
- A binary feature $X \in \{0, 1\}$ used for splitting.

We define:

- $H(Y)$: Entropy of the target variable Y .
- $H(Y|X)$: Conditional entropy of Y given X .
- $I(X; Y)$: Mutual information between X and Y , which represents the **information gain** from splitting on X .

The mutual information is defined as:

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

From information theory, mutual information is symmetric:

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

Since X is binary, we know:

$$H(X) \leq 1$$

and the conditional entropy $H(X|Y)$ is non-negative:

$$H(X|Y) \geq 0$$

Therefore:

$$I(X; Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y) \leq H(X) \leq 1$$

Thus:

$$H(Y) - H(Y|X) = I(X; Y) \leq 1$$