

# The information contained in uniform distributions



**MathsNET**  
A joined up approach to  
teaching and learning  
mathematics

- 
- Explain the meaning of the term functional
  - State Khitchines four axioms for the information
  - Explain what we mean when we state that a function or functional is monotonically decreasing.
  - Now explain why the information in a uniform distribution decreases monotonically with the size of the sample space.

# The information contained in uniform distributions



**MathsNET**  
A joined up approach to  
teaching and learning  
mathematics

- 
- If the uniform probability distribution  $p$  has a sample space with  $m$  outcomes and the probability distribution  $q$  has a sample space with  $n$  outcomes. How many outcomes are there in the sample space for the joint probability distribution  $p \otimes q$ . N.B.  $p$  and  $q$  are independent.
  - Explain why the information in a uniform probability distribution must be a function of  $\frac{1}{n}$  where  $n$  is the number of
  - Hence, explain why the information in a uniform distribution,  $p$ , is given by:  $I(p) = -k \ln n$ .