Why

We want to extend our notion of entropy (see Discrete Entropy) to real-valued (continuous) random variables.

Definition

The *differential entropy* of a probability density function is the integral of the density against the negative log of the density. This definition made to be similar to the case of discrete entropy. If a real-valued random variable has a density, then we call the differential entropy of its density the *differential entropy* of the random variable.

Notation

Let $f : \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}$ be a probability density function. The differential entropy of f is

$$-\int f \log f$$

We denote the differential entropy of f by $h(f)$.

Example

Let $x : \Omega \to \mathbf{R}$ be uniform on $[0, 1/2]$. Then $h(x) = \log 1/2 < 0$.

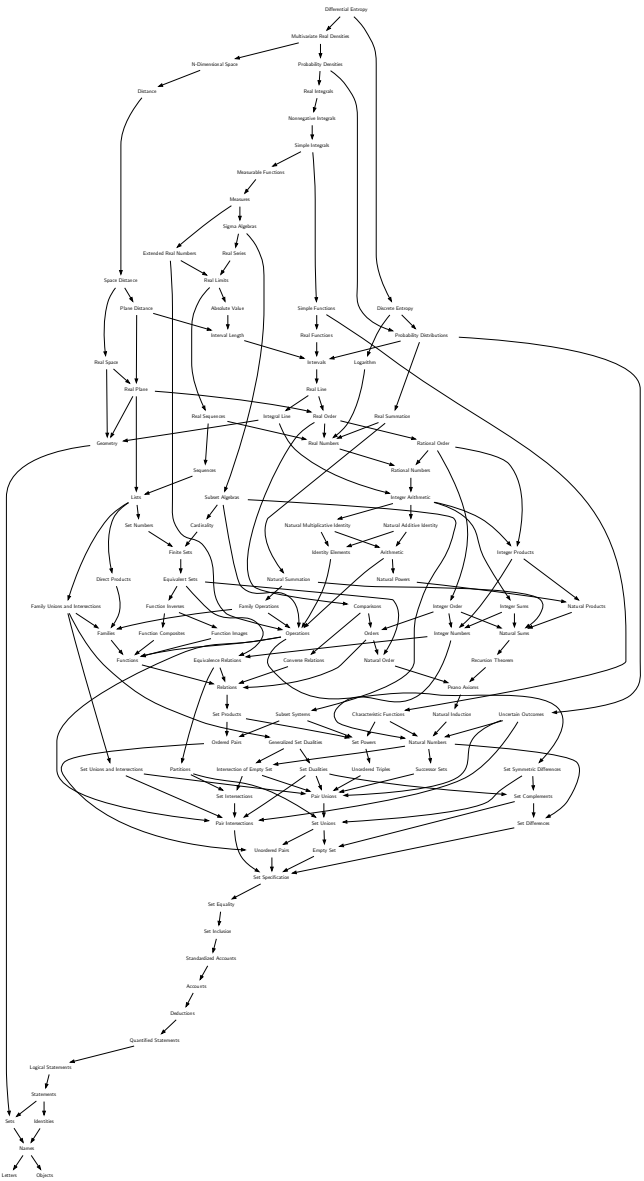
Problems

We have $h(ax) = h(x) + \log|a|$. In generaly $h(Ax) = h(x) + \log|A|$.

Differences still meaningful

Even though the value of the differential entropy is not necessarily a good analogy to discrete entropy, differences still are. In particular, the following holds

$$I(X;Y) = H(Y) - H(Y \mid X) = H(X) = H(X \mid Y)$$


Differential Entropy
Multivariate Real Densities
N-Dimensional Space
Probability Densities
Distance
Real Integrals
Nonnegative Integrals
Simple Integrals
Measurable Functions
Measures
Sigma Algebras
Extended Real Numbers
Real Sets
Space Distance
Real Limits
Plane Distance
Absolute Value
Simple Functions
Discrete Entropy
Interval Length
Real Functions
Probability Distributions
Real Space
Integrals
Logarithm
Real Line
Real Plane
Real Sequences
Integral Line
Real Order
Real Summation
Geometry
Real Numbers
Rational Order
Sequences
Rational Numbers
Integer Arithmetic
Lists
Subset Algebras
Set Numbers
Cardinality
Natural Multiplicative Identity
Natural Additive Identity
Finite Sets
Identity Elements
Arithmetic
Integer Products
Direct Products
Equivalent Sets
Natural Summation
Natural Powers
Family Unions and Intersections
Function Inverses
Family Operations
Comparisons
Integer Order
Integer Sums
Natural Products
Families
Function Composites
Function Images
Operations
Orders
Integer Numbers
Natural Sums
Functions
Equivalence Relations
Converse Relations
Natural Order
Recursion Theorems
Relations
Peano Axioms
Set Products
Subset Systems
Characteristic Functions
Natural Induction
Uncertain Outcomes
Ordered Pairs
Generalized Set Doubles
Set Powers
Natural Numbers
Set Unions and Intersections
Partitions
Intersection of Empty Set
Set Doubles
Unordered Triples
Successor Sets
Set Symmetric Differences
Set Intersections
Pair Unions
Set Complements
Pair Intersections
Set Unions
Set Differences
Unordered Pairs
Empty Set
Set Specification
Set Equality
Set Inclusion
Standardized Accounts
Accounts
Deductions
Quantified Statements
Logical Statements
Statements
Sets
Identities
Name
Letters
Objects