



Definition

Consider two distributions on the same finite set. The *cross entropy* of the first distribution *relative* to the second distribution is the expectation of the negative logarithm of the first distribution under the second distribution.

Notation

Suppose $p : A \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and $q : A \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ are distributions on the finite set A . We denote the cross entropy of p relative to q by $H(q, p)$; in symbols,

$$H(q, p) := - \sum_{a \in A} q(a) \log p(a)$$

