



## Why

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## Definition

The entropy of a distribution is the expectation of the negative logarithm of the distribution under the distribution. It is sometimes called the *discrete entropy* to distinguish it with another related topic.<sup>2</sup>

## Notation

Let  $A$  be a finite set. Let  $p : A \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  be a distribution. The entropy of  $p$  is

$$-\sum_{a \in A} p(a) \log(p(a)).$$

We denote the entropy of  $p$  by  $H(p)$ .

## Properties

Let  $x : \Omega \rightarrow V$  be a discrete random variable.

1.  $H(x) \geq 0$
2.  $H(f(x)) \leq H(x)$
3. Let  $g$  invertible, then  $H(g(x)) \leq H(x)$

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<sup>1</sup>This will be included in a future edition.

<sup>2</sup>Future editions may not forward reference differential entropy.



