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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.²

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 $H(g(x)) \leq H(x)$

¹This will be included in a future edition.

²Future editions may not forward reference differential entropy.

