

Uncertainty in the contents of sequences of urns

P.G.L. Porta Mana

[<pgl@portamana.org>](mailto:pgl@portamana.org)

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Note: Dear Reader & Peer, this manuscript is being peer-reviewed by you. Thank you.

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Quantifying our uncertainty about the contents of a urn that contains, say, white and black balls in unknown proportions is a standard textbook topic. Our uncertainty obviously depend on the data we have about the urn – draws – and on our state of knowledge about the urn before gathered those data. Jaynes’s book ([2003](#) chs 3 & 6) gives a superb analysis and discussion of this problem, with all relevant formulae that typically arise, and even some uncommon ones ([ibid.](#) § 3.9).

Bibliography

(‘de X ’ is listed under D, ‘van X ’ under V, and so on, regardless of national conventions.)

Jaynes, E. T. (2003): *Probability Theory: The Logic of Science*. (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge). Ed. by G. Larry Bretthorst. First publ. 1994. <https://archive.org/details/XQUHIUXHIQUHIQXUIHX2>, <http://www-biba.inrialpes.fr/Jaynes/prob.html>.