

Proof that the maximum uncertainty for  $N$  events is obtained when all events are equally possible.

- Goal is to min  $U = -\sum_{i=1}^N P_i \log P_i$  where  $P_i \equiv P(X_i)$  (1)

Under the constraint  $1 = \sum_{i=1}^N P_i$  (2).

From (2) we have  $P_N = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} P_i$ , substituting into (1)

$$U = -\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} P_i \log P_i - \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} P_i\right) \log \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} P_i\right)$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial U}{\partial P_j} &= -1 - \log P_j + \left(-1 - \log \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} P_i\right)\right) \frac{\partial \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} P_i\right)}{\partial P_j} \\ &= -\log P_j + \log \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} P_i\right) = \log \left(\frac{1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} P_i}{P_j}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Useful
$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (-x \log x) =$
$-1 - \log x$

then I need to solve

$$(3) \quad 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} P_i = P_j \quad \text{as this will yield } \frac{\partial U}{\partial P_j} = \log(1) = 0$$

From (3) we have  $N-1$  linear equations which we write a single one for  $j$  as

$$2P_j + \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^{N-1} P_i = 1$$

which we can easily represent as

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & & & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ 1 & \dots & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} P_1 \\ \vdots \\ P_{N-1} \end{bmatrix}}_P = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_C$$

$\vec{A} \vec{A}$   
if multiplying row  $i$  from  $A'$  by column  $j$  from  $A$  with  $i \neq j$  (off-diagonal elements or  $A'A$ ), the sum of all rows of  $j$  except row  $i$  is constant and equal to  $2 + (N-3) = N-1$ , the remaining element  $(i,j)$  of  $A$  is 1 which means that if the element  $(i,j)$  of  $A'$  is  $N-1$  and remaining columns of the same row in  $A'$  are -1, off diagonal elements will always be zero in  $A'A$ . Furthermore the diagonal will be  $2(N-1) - (N-2) = N \Rightarrow A^{-1} = \frac{1}{N} \begin{bmatrix} N-1 & -1 \\ -1 & \ddots & -1 \\ -1 & \dots & N-1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{N} \begin{bmatrix} N-1 & -1 & \dots & -1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -1 & \dots & -1 & N-1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ \vdots \\ p_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{N} \begin{bmatrix} N-1 & -1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ -1 & N-1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{N} [N-1-(N-2)]$$

$$\Rightarrow p_j = \frac{1}{N} [N-1-(N-2)] = \frac{1}{N} \quad j \in \{1, \dots, N-1\}$$

$$\text{and } p_N = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} p_i = 1 - \frac{1}{N} (N-1) = \frac{1}{N}$$

$$\Rightarrow p_i = \frac{1}{N} \quad i \in \{1, \dots, N\} \text{ maximizes the uncertainty } u = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \log p_i$$