

The Kolmogorov Birthday Paradox

Samuel Epstein*

July 26, 2022

Abstract

We prove a Kolmogorov complexity variant of the birthday paradox. Sufficiently sized random subsets of strings are guaranteed to have two members x and y with low $\mathbf{K}(x/y)$. To prove this, we first show that the minimum conditional Kolmogorov complexity between members of finite sets is very low if they are not exotic. Exotic sets have high mutual information with the halting sequence.

1 Introduction

We prove a Kolmogorov complexity version of the birthday paradox. If you randomly select $2^{n/2}$ strings of length n , then, with overwhelming probability, you have selected two strings x and y with low $\mathbf{K}(x/y)$. This is true for all probabilities with low mutual information with the halting sequence. The function \mathbf{K} is the prefix free Kolmogorov complexity.

To prove this fact, we first prove an interesting property about bunches of finite strings. A (k, l) -bunch is a finite set of strings X where $2^l > \max_{x, y \in X} \mathbf{K}(y/x)$ and $2^k < |X|$. Bunches were introduced in [13], but we use a slightly different definition. Though bunches have only two parameters, they exhibit many interesting properties. In the literature, there have been properties proven about the common information of bunches. Both [13] and [12] proved the existence of strings simple to each member of the bunches. That is, there exists a string z such that $\mathbf{K}(z/x) < O(l - k) + \mathbf{K}(l)$ and $\mathbf{K}(x/z) < l + O(l - k) + \mathbf{K}(l)$, for all $x \in X$. In [3], it was proven that each bunch has a member that is simple relative to all members of the bunch, similar to the above definition. If not, then the bunch has high mutual information with the halting sequence. The mutual information between a string and the halting sequence is $\mathbf{I}(x; \mathcal{H}) = \mathbf{K}(x) - \mathbf{K}(x/\mathcal{H})$. We prove that if a non exotic bunch X has many members and low $\max_{x, y \in X, x \neq y} \mathbf{K}(y/x)$ then it will have two elements x, y with very low $\mathbf{K}(y/x)$. An exotic bunch has high mutual information with the halting sequence.

Theorem. For (k, l) -bunch X , $\min_{x, y \in X} \mathbf{K}(y/x) <^{\log} \lceil l - 2k \rceil^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}) + 2\mathbf{K}(l, k)$.

The Kolmogorov Birthday Paradox. Lets say we select a random subset D of size $2^{n/2}$ consisting of (possibly repeated) strings of length n , where each string is selected independently with a uniform probability. For the simple Kolmogorov birthday paradox, with overwhelming probability, there are two (possibly the same) strings $x, y \in D$, such that $\mathbf{K}(x/y) = O(1)$, for a large enough constant. This is due to reasoning from the classical birthday paradox. We now prove the general Kolmogorov birthday paradox. Let P be any probability over sets D consisting of $2^{n/2}$ (possibly repeated) strings of length n . Since $D \subset \Sigma^n$, for all D , $\max_{x, y \in D} \mathbf{K}(x/y) <^+ n$. By Corollary 2 in the Appendix, $\Pr_{D \sim P} [\mathbf{I}(D; \mathcal{H}) > \mathbf{I}(P; \mathcal{H}) + m] <^* 2^{-m}$. Using the above theorem, we get the following result, with $l = n + O(1)$, $k = .5n - 1$. Note that if D has repeat members, then x could

*JP Theory Group. samepst@jpththeorygroup.org



Figure 1: The domain of a Turing machine T can be interpreted as the $[0, 1]$ interval, and the strings for which T halts can be seen as a collection of intervals on the domain. A left-total machine L has the property that if L halts on a string x then it will halt on a string y whose binary interval is smaller (i.e. to the left of) x . This paper uses a left-total universal Turing machine.

equal y , and trivially $\mathbf{K}(x|y) = O(1)$. Obviously the bound loosens if P samples sets of smaller size, mirroring the classical birthday paradox.¹

Corollary. $\Pr_{D \sim P} [\min_{x, y \in D} \mathbf{K}(x/y) <^{\log} \mathbf{I}(P; \mathcal{H}) + 2\mathbf{K}(n) + c] > 1 - 2^{-c}$.

2 Related Work

The study of Kolmogorov complexity originated from the work of [7]. The canonical self-delimiting form of Kolmogorov complexity was introduced in [22] and treated later in [1]. The universal probability \mathbf{m} was introduced in [17]. More information about the history of the concepts used in this paper can be found the textbook [11].

The main result of this paper is an inequality including the mutual information of the encoding of a finite set with the halting sequence. A history of the origin of the mutual information of a string with the halting sequence can be found in [18].

A string is stochastic if it is typical of a simple elementary probability distribution. A string is typical of a probability measure if it has a low deficiency of randomness. The deficiency of randomness of a number $a \in \mathbb{N}$ with respect to a probability P is $\mathbf{d}(a|P) = -\log P(a) - \mathbf{K}(a/\langle P \rangle)$. It is a measure of the extent of the refutation against the hypothesis p given the result a [6]. Thus the stochasticity of a string a is, roughly, $\min_{\text{probability } p} \mathbf{K}(p) + O(\log \mathbf{d}(a|P))$.

In the proof of Theorem 1, the stochasticity measure of encodings of finite sets is used. The notion of the deficiency of randomness with respect to a measure follows from the work of [14], and also studied in [8, 20, 15]. Aspects involving stochastic objects were studied in [14, 15, 20, 21].

This work uses the notion of left total machine (see Figure 1) and the notion of the infinite “border” sequence, which is equal to the binary expansion of Chaitin’s Omega, (see Section 7). The works of [18, 5] introduced the notion of using the prefix of the border sequence to define strings into a two part code. This paper uses theorems and lemmas found in [2].

This paper can be seen as a conditional variant to the main result in [10]. In [10], it was proved for non exotic sets D , the a-priori probability, \mathbf{m} , of a set is concentrated on a single element.

Theorem. $([10]) - \log \max_{x \in D} \mathbf{m}(x) <^{\log} - \log \sum_{x \in D} \mathbf{m}(x) + \mathbf{I}(D; \mathcal{H})$.

¹Formulated a different way, if probability P samples $m < 2^{n/2}$ strings of length n and $\mathbf{E}_{D \sim P} [\min_{x, y \in D} \mathbf{K}(y|x)] > c$, then $\log m < (n - c)/2 + O(\log n + \mathbf{I}(P; \mathcal{H}))$.

There is a simple proof to this theorem in [16]. The proof of Theorem 1 is similar to that of the main result in [10], in that they both first prove stochasticity, $\mathbf{Ks}(O)$, of an object O with certain properties and then show that this object has high $\mathbf{I}(O; \mathcal{H})$. In [10], O is equal to a set, and in this paper O is equal to a (sub)graph. Theorem 2 is not directly implied by the theorem in [10] because this paper deals with conditional complexities between elements of a set. In addition, Theorem 2 is not a generalization of the main theorem in [10] because it relies on the parameters of bunches and not the a-priori probability \mathbf{m} .

3 Conventions

We use Σ , Σ^* , Σ^∞ , \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{Q} , and \mathbb{R} to denote bits, finite strings, infinite sequence, natural numbers, rationals, and reals. Let $X_{\geq 0}$ and $X_{> 0}$ be the sets of non-negative and of positive elements of X . $\Sigma^{*\infty} = \Sigma^* \cup \Sigma^\infty$. The positive part of a real is $[a]^+ = \max\{a, 0\}$. For string $x \in \Sigma^*$, $x0^- = x1^- = x$. For $x \in \Sigma^*$ and $y \in \Sigma^{*\infty}$, we use $x \sqsubset y$ if there is some string $z \in \Sigma^{*\infty}$ where $xz = y$. The indicator function of a mathematical statement A is denoted by $[A]$, where if A is true then $[A] = 1$, otherwise $[A] = 0$. The self delimiting code of a string $x \in \Sigma^*$ is $\langle x \rangle = 1^{\|x\|}0x$. The encoding of (a possibly ordered) set $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\} \subset \Sigma^*$, is $\langle m \rangle \langle x_1 \rangle \dots \langle x_m \rangle$.

Probability measures Q over numbers are elementary if $|\text{Support}(Q)| < \infty$ and $\text{Range}(Q) \subset Q_{\geq 0}$. Elementary probability measures Q with $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\} = \text{Support}(Q)$ are encoded by finite strings, with $\langle Q \rangle = \langle \{x_1, Q(x_1), \dots, x_m, Q(x_m)\} \rangle$. For nonnegative real function f , we use $<^+ f$, $>^+ f$, $=^+ f$ to denote $< f + O(1)$, $> f - O(1)$, and $= f \pm O(1)$. We also use $<^{\log} f$ and $>^{\log} f$ to denote $< f + O(\log(f+1))$ and $> f - O(\log(f+1))$.

We use a universal prefix free algorithm U , where we say $U_\alpha(x) = y$ if U , on main input x and auxiliary input α , outputs y . We define Kolmogorov complexity with respect to U , with for $x \in \Sigma^*$, $y \in \Sigma^{*\infty}$, $\mathbf{K}(x/y) = \min\{\|p\| : U_y(p) = x\}$. The universal probability \mathbf{m} is defined as $\mathbf{m}(x/y) = \sum_p [U_y(p) = x] 2^{-\|p\|}$. By the coding theorem $\mathbf{K}(x/y) =^+ -\log \mathbf{m}(x/y)$. By the chain rule, $\mathbf{K}(x, y) =^+ \mathbf{K}(x) + \mathbf{K}(y/x, \mathbf{K}(x))$. The halting sequence $\mathcal{H} \in \Sigma^\infty$ is the unique infinite sequence where $\mathcal{H}[i] = [U(i) \text{ halts}]$. The information that $x \in \Sigma^*$ has about \mathcal{H} , conditional to $y \in \Sigma^{*\infty}$, is $\mathbf{I}(x; \mathcal{H}/y) = \mathbf{K}(x/y) - \mathbf{K}(x/\langle y, \mathcal{H} \rangle)$. $\mathbf{I}(x; \mathcal{H}) = \mathbf{I}(x; \mathcal{H}/\emptyset)$.

This paper uses notions of stochasticity in the field of algorithmic statistics [19]. A string x is stochastic, i.e. has a low $\mathbf{Ks}(x)$ score, if it is typical of a simple probability distribution. The extended deficiency of randomness function of a string x with respect to an elementary probability measure P conditional to $y \in \Sigma^*$, is $\mathbf{d}(x|P, y) = \lfloor -\log P(x) \rfloor - \mathbf{K}(x/\langle P, y \rangle)$.

Definition 1 (Stochasticity) For $x, y \in \Sigma^*$, $\mathbf{Ks}(x/y) = \min\{\mathbf{K}(P/y) + 3 \log \max\{\mathbf{d}(x|P, y), 1\} : P \text{ is an elementary probability measure}\}$. $\mathbf{K}(s) = \mathbf{K}(s/\emptyset)$.

4 Labelled Graphs, Warmup

In Section 5, a property of a complete subgraph of a label graph is proven. A labelled graph is a directed graph such that each vertex has a unique string attached to it. Given certain properties of the graph $G = (G_E, G_V)$, where G_E are the directed edges and G_V are the vertices, and subgraph $J = (J_E, V_V)$, Theorem 1 in Section 5 proves J is guaranteed to have an edge $(x, y) \in J_E$ with low $\mathbf{K}(x|y)$. In this section, we describe the overall arguments in the proof of this theorem.

We specify a vertex interchangeably with the string assigned to it. The general argument for the proof of Theorem 1 is as follows. Given a labelled graph G , if there is a random subgraph $F = (F_E, F_V)$ that is large enough, then it will probably share an edge with most large complete

subgraphs J of G . Thus large complete subgraphs of G with empty intersection with F will be considered atypical. If F shares an edge with complete subgraph $J \subseteq G$, then

$$\min_{(x,y) \in J_E} \mathbf{K}(y/x) \lesssim \log \max_{x \in F_V} \text{OutDegree}(x) + \mathbf{K}(F).$$

This inequality follows from that fact that given a description of F describing $\{(x, y) : (x, y) \in F_E\}$, and an $x \in F$, each $y \in \{y : (x, y) \in F_E\}$ can be described relative to x with $\log(\text{OutDegree}(x))$ bits. In this section, instead of using random subgraphs, we use random lists of vertices L_\bullet , indexed by $x \in G_V$. Thus for each $x \in G_V$, L_x is a list of vertices, possibly with repetition. This allows for easier manipulation.

The warm up arguments are as follows. Let G be a graph of max degree 2^l and \mathcal{J} be the set of complete subgraphs of G of size 2^k . We assume $l > 2k$. Each vertex $x \in G$ has a random list L_x of 2^{l-2k} vertices where for $i \in [1, 2^{l-2k}]$, $\Pr(y = L_x[i]) = [(x, y) \in G_E]2^{-l}$ and $\Pr(\emptyset = L_x[i]) = 1 - \text{OutDegree}(x)2^{-l}$. For $J \in \mathcal{J}$, indexed list L_\bullet ,

$$\text{Miss}(J, L_\bullet) \text{ is true iff } \forall x, \forall y \in J_V, y \notin L_x.$$

For each $J \in \mathcal{J}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\text{Miss}(J, L_\bullet)) &= \prod_{x \in J_V} \Pr(\forall y \in J_V, y \notin L_x) \\ &\leq \prod_{x \in J_V} (1 - 2^{k-l})^{|L_x|} \\ &\leq \prod_{x \in J_V} (1 - 2^{k-l})^{2^{l-2k}} \\ &\leq \left((1 - 2^{k-l})^{2^{l-2k}} \right)^{|J|} \\ &\leq \left(e^{-2^{-k}} \right)^{|J|} < e^{-1} < 1. \end{aligned}$$

Now assume that $|L_x| = b2^{l-2k}$ for all $x \in G_V$, i.e. b times more than before. It is not hard to see that $\Pr(\text{Miss}(J, L_\bullet)) < e^{-b}$ for each $J \in \mathcal{J}$. We assume a uniform distribution \mathcal{U} over \mathcal{J} . Under this assumption,

$$\mathbf{E}[\text{Miss}(J, L_\bullet)] < \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}} |\mathcal{J}|^{-1} e^{-b} = e^{-b}.$$

Thus given all the parameters, G , k , l , and b , using brute force search, one can find a set of lists L'_\bullet of size $b2^{l-2k}$ indexed by $x \in G_V$, such that less than e^{-b} of members J of \mathcal{J} have $\text{Miss}(J, L'_\bullet)$. If $\text{Miss}(J, L'_\bullet)$ is true for $J \in \mathcal{J}$, then it must be atypical of \mathcal{U} , because $\mathbf{E}_{J \sim \mathcal{U}}[\text{Miss}(J, L'_\bullet)] < e^{-b}$. One can construct a \mathcal{U} -test using L'_\bullet . A \mathcal{U} test is any function $t : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ such that $\sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}} t(J) \mathcal{U}(J) \leq 1$. Thus $t \cdot \mathcal{U}$ is a semi-measure and so

$$\mathbf{K}(J/t, \mathcal{U}) <^+ -\log t(J) \mathcal{U}(J). \quad (1)$$

Thus the function $t(J) = [\text{Miss}(J, L'_\bullet)]e^b$ is a \mathcal{U} -test, with $\sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}} t(J) \mathcal{U}(J) < 1$. We set aside the parameters $(G, k, l, b, \mathcal{U})$ because they complicate the discussion. That is, we roll the parameters into the additive constants of the inequalities. By the definition of randomness deficiency,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{d}(J|\mathcal{U}) &= -\log \mathcal{U}(J) - \mathbf{K}(J) \\ &>^+ \log |\mathcal{J}| - \mathbf{K}(J/L'_\bullet) \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

$$>^+ \log |\mathcal{J}| - \mathbf{K}(J/t) \tag{3}$$

$$>^+ \log |\mathcal{J}| + \log t(J)\mathcal{U}(J) \tag{4}$$

$$>^+ \log |\mathcal{J}| + \log t(J)|\mathcal{J}|^{-1}$$

$$>^+ b \log e.$$

Equation 2 has two components. The first term $\log |\mathcal{J}|$ is equal to $-\log \mathcal{U}(J)$ because \mathcal{U} is the uniform distribution over all $\mathcal{J} \ni J$, the set of all complete subgraphs of G of size 2^k . The second term is due to the additive equalities

$$-\mathbf{K}(J/L'_\bullet) = -\mathbf{K}(J/L'_\bullet, G, k, l, b, \mathcal{U}) =^+ \mathbf{K}(J),$$

because given all the hidden parameters $(G, k, l, b, \mathcal{U})$, one can compute L'_\bullet using brute force search, as described above. Equation 3 is due to the fact that the test t is constructed from L'_\bullet (and the hidden parameters). Equation 4 is due to the properties of tests, shown in Equation 1.

Thus all complete subgraphs $J \in \mathcal{J}$ of G for which $\text{Miss}(J, L'_\bullet)$ is true will be atypical of \mathcal{U} , with randomness deficiency $\mathbf{d}(J|\mathcal{U})$ greater than b . Thus if a subgraph $J \in \mathcal{J}$ is b -typical, then there exists $(x, y) \in J_E$, with $y \in L_x$. So b -typical subgraphs $J \in \mathcal{J}$ will have

$$\min_{(x,y) \in J_E} \mathbf{K}(y/x) <^+ \log |L_x| <^+ l - 2k + \log b. \tag{5}$$

For Theorem 1, the uniform probability measure \mathcal{U} is replaced by a special computable measure P that realizes the stochasticity of the subgraph J . In addition, b is chosen to equal $b \approx \mathbf{d}(J|P)$ so that the subgraph J is guaranteed to be typical of P , so $\text{Miss}(J)$ is false. This means Equation 5 holds for J . In addition, in the next section, the parameters (G, k, l, b) must be taken into account.

5 Labelled Graphs

In this section, we study exotic subgraphs of simple labelled graphs. A subgraph J is exotic if it has a lot of labelled edges $(x, y) \in J$, such that the conditional complexity $\mathbf{K}(y/x)$ is high. The proof of the following theorem uses stochasticity \mathbf{Ks} . An example proof that uses \mathbf{Ks} and mirrors the proof of Theorem 1 can be found in Appendix B. Note that the lemma in Appendix B is just an exercise to demonstrate reasoning with \mathbf{Ks} . The lemma is not used in the paper.

Theorem 1 *For graph G , complete subgraph J , if $2^l > \max \text{Outdegree}(G)$, $2^k < |J|$, $h = \mathbf{I}(J; \mathcal{H}/G, k)$, then $\min_{(x,y) \in J} \mathbf{K}(y/x) < \lceil l - 2k \rceil^+ + h + \mathbf{K}(G, k) + O(\mathbf{K}(h))$.*

Proof. We put $\langle G, k \rangle$ on an auxiliary tape to the universal Turing machine U . Thus all algorithms have access to (G, k) and all complexities implicitly have (G, k) as conditional terms.

Let $\ell = \max\{l, 2k\}$. Let P be the probability that realizes $\mathbf{Ks}(J)$ and the deficiency of randomness $d = \max\{\mathbf{d}(J|P), 1\}$. Let $V : G \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ be a conditional probability measure where $V(y|x) = [(x, y) \in G_E]2^{-\ell}$ and $V(\emptyset|x) = 1 - \text{OutDegree}(x)2^{-\ell}$. We define a conditional probability measure over lists L of $cd2^{\ell-2k}$ vertices of G , with $\kappa : G \times G^{cd2^{\ell-2k}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, where $\kappa(L|x) = \prod_{y \in L} V(y|x)$. The constant $c \in \mathbb{N}$ will be determined later. Let L_\bullet be an indexed

list of $cd2^{\ell-2k}$ elements, indexed by $x \in G$, where each list is denoted by L_x for $x \in G_V$. Let $\kappa(L_\bullet) = \prod_{x \in G} \kappa(L_x|x)$. For indexed list L_\bullet , graph $H = (H_E, H_V)$, we use the following indicator $\mathbf{i}(L_\bullet, H) = [\text{Complete } H \subseteq G, 2^k < |H|, \forall (x, y) \in H_E, y \notin L_x]$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{L_\bullet \sim \kappa} \mathbf{E}_{H \sim P} [\mathbf{i}(L_\bullet, H)] &\leq \sum_H P(H) \prod_{x \in H_V} (1 - 2^{k-\ell})^{|L_x|} \\ &\leq \sum_H P(H) \prod_{x \in H_V} (1 - 2^{k-\ell})^{cd2^{\ell-2k}} \\ &\leq \sum_H P(H) \prod_{x \in H_V} e^{-cd2^{-k}} \\ &< \sum_H P(H) e^{-cd} \\ &= e^{-cd}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus there exists an L'_\bullet such that $\mathbf{E}_{H \sim P} [\mathbf{i}(L'_\bullet, H)] < e^{-cd}$. This L'_\bullet can be found with brute force search with all the parameters, with

$$\mathbf{K}(L'_\bullet/P, c, d) = O(1). \quad (6)$$

Thus $t(H) = \mathbf{i}(L'_\bullet, H)e^{cd}$ is a P test, where $\mathbf{E}_{H \sim P} [t(H)] \leq 1$. A diagram of the components used in this proof can be found in Figure 2. Furthermore

$$\mathbf{K}(t|P, c, d) =^+ \mathbf{K}(t|L'_\bullet, P, c, d) = O(1).$$

It must be that there is an $(x, y) \in J_E$ where $y \in L_x$. Otherwise $t_{L_\bullet}(J) = e^{cd}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K}(J/P, c, d) &<^+ \mathbf{K}(J/t, P, c, d) \\ \mathbf{K}(J/P, c, d) &<^+ -\log t(J)P(J) \\ &<^+ -(\log e)cd - \log P(J) \\ (\log e)cd &<^+ -\log P(J) - \mathbf{K}(J/P, c, d) \\ (\log e)cd &<^+ -\log P(J) - \mathbf{K}(J/P) + \mathbf{K}(c, d) \\ (\log e)cd &<^+ d + \mathbf{K}(c, d), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

which is a contradiction for large enough c solely dependent on the universal Turing machine U . Equation 7 is due to Equation 1. The constant c is folded into the additive constants of the inequalities of the rest of the proof. Thus since exists $(x, y) \in J_E$ where $y \in L_x$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K}(y/x) &<^+ \log |L'_x| + \mathbf{K}(L'_\bullet) \\ &<^+ [l - 2k]^+ + \log d + \mathbf{K}(L'_\bullet/P, d) + \mathbf{K}(P, d) \\ &<^+ [l - 2k]^+ + \log d + \mathbf{K}(P, d) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

$$<^+ [l - 2k]^+ + 3\log d + \mathbf{K}(P) \quad (9)$$

Equation 8 is due to Equation 6. We now make the relativization of (G, k) explicit, with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K}(y/x, G, k) &<^+ [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{K}s(J/G, k) \\ &< [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(J; \mathcal{H}/G, k) + O(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{I}(J; \mathcal{H}/G, k))) \\ \mathbf{K}(y/x) &< [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(J; \mathcal{H}/G, k) + \mathbf{K}(G, k) + O(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{I}(J; \mathcal{H}/G, k))). \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Equation 10 is due to Lemma 10 in [2], which states $\mathbf{K}s(x) < \mathbf{I}(x; \mathcal{H}) + O(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{I}(x; \mathcal{H})))$. \square



Figure 2: The above diagram is a graphical representation of the concepts used in the proof of Theorem 1. The main ellipse models the graph G and the circles in the graph represent complete subgraphs (labeled H_1 to H_5 and also J) with $> 2^k$ vertices. Each subgraph is in the support of probability P , represented by the dotted lines. The set L'_\bullet represents a collection of selected edges. If a subgraph H_i does not contain an edge in L'_\bullet , then H_i is *atypical* and has a high score $t(H_i)$. By design, J is typical, thus shares an edge with L'_\bullet .

6 Warm Up for the Main Theorem of Paper

Theorem 1 can be used to prove results about the minimum conditional complexity between two elements of a bunch. This section gives a broad overview of the arguments used in the proof of Theorem 2. Let $X \subset \Sigma^*$ be a (k, l) -bunch, where $|X| > 2^k$, and $\max_{x, y \in X} \mathbf{K}(y/x) < 2^{-l}$.

Let $\mathbf{K}^r(x/y) = \min\{\|p\| : U_y(p) = x \text{ in time } r\}$ be the conditional complexity of x given y in time r . So given a number r , \mathbf{K}^r is computable. We also assume $\mathbf{K}^r(x/y) = \infty$ if $\|y\| > r$ to make sure that \mathbf{K}^r has finite $\{(x, y) : \mathbf{K}^r(x/y) < \infty, x, y \in \mathbb{N}\}$ for each r . Let $G^r = (G_E^r, G_V^r)$ be a graph defined by $(x, y) \in G_E^r$ iff $\mathbf{K}^r(x/y) < l$.

Let s be the smallest number where $\mathbf{K}^s(x/y) < l$, for all $x, y \in X$. Let $G = (G_E, G_V) = G^s$. Since X is a (k, l) -bunch, X can be viewed as a complete subgraph of G of size $> 2^k$. Invoking Theorem 1, we get

$$\min_{(x, y) \in X} \mathbf{K}(y/x) \lesssim [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/G, k) + \mathbf{K}(G, k). \quad (11)$$

We have $\mathbf{K}(s/G) <^+ \mathbf{K}(l)$ because $s = \min\{r : G = G^r\}$. So

$$\mathbf{K}(X/G, k) <^+ \mathbf{K}(X/s, k) + \mathbf{K}(s/G, k) <^+ \mathbf{K}(X/s) + \mathbf{K}(l). \quad (12)$$

Due to the definition of $G = G^s$,

$$\mathbf{K}(G/s) <^+ \mathbf{K}(l). \quad (13)$$

By the definition of \mathbf{I} ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/G, k) &= \mathbf{K}(X/G, k) - \mathbf{K}(X/G, k, \mathcal{H}) \\ &= \mathbf{K}(X/G) - \mathbf{K}(X/G, \mathcal{H}) + O(\mathbf{K}(k)) \\ &<^+ \mathbf{K}(X/s) - \mathbf{K}(X/G, \mathcal{H}) + O(\mathbf{K}(k, l)) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &< \mathbf{K}(X/s) - \mathbf{K}(X/s, \mathcal{H}) + \mathbf{K}(G/s) + O(\mathbf{K}(k, l)) \\ &< \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/s) + O(\mathbf{K}(k, l)). \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Equation 14 is due to Equation 12. Equation 15 is due to Equation 13. Using $\mathbf{K}(G) <^+ \mathbf{K}(s) + \mathbf{K}(l)$ and Equation 15, we get

$$\mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/G, k) + \mathbf{K}(G, k) < \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/s) + \mathbf{K}(s) + O(\mathbf{K}(k, l)). \quad (16)$$

Combining Equations 11 and 16, we get

$$\min_{(x,y) \in J} \mathbf{K}(y/x) \lesssim [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/s) + \mathbf{K}(s) + O(\mathbf{K}(l, k)). \quad (17)$$

This inequality is close to the form of Theorem 2. The main difference is that the number r appears in Equation 17. This can be rectified if we use a different notion of a computational resource. In the next section we introduce left-total universal machines, and the resource used is not a number s but a so-called total string b . Then Lemma 1, defined in Section 7, can be used to remove the b factor from the final inequality.

7 Left-Total Machines

We recall that for $x \in \Sigma^*$, $\Gamma_x = \{x\beta : \beta \in \Sigma^\infty\}$ is the interval of x . The notions of total strings and the “left-total” universal algorithm are needed in this paper. We say $x \in \Sigma^*$ is total with respect to a machine if the machine halts on all sufficiently long extensions of x . More formally, x is total with respect to T_y for some $y \in \Sigma^{*\infty}$ iff there exists a finite prefix free set of strings $Z \subset \Sigma^*$ where $\sum_{z \in Z} 2^{-\|z\|} = 1$ and $T_y(xz) \neq \perp$ for all $z \in Z$. We say (finite or infinite) string $\alpha \in \Sigma^{*\infty}$ is to the “left” of $\beta \in \Sigma^{*\infty}$, and use the notation $\alpha \triangleleft \beta$, if there exists a $x \in \Sigma^*$ such that $x0 \sqsubseteq \alpha$ and $x1 \sqsubseteq \beta$. A machine T is left-total if for all auxiliary strings $\alpha \in \Sigma^{*\infty}$ and for all $x, y \in \Sigma^*$ with $x \triangleleft y$, one has that $T_\alpha(y) \neq \perp$ implies that x is total with respect to T_α . Left-total machines were introduced in [10]. An example can be seen in Figure 3.

For the remaining of this paper, we can and will change the universal self delimiting machine U into a universal left-total machine U' by the following definition. The algorithm U' orders all strings $p \in \Sigma^*$ by the running time of U when given p as an input. Then U' assigns each p an interval $i_p \subseteq [0, 1]$ of width $2^{-\|p\|}$. The intervals are assigned “left to right”, where if $p \in \Sigma^*$ and $q \in \Sigma^*$ are the first and second strings in the ordering, then they will be assigned the intervals $[0, 2^{-\|p\|}]$ and $[2^{-\|p\|}, 2^{-\|p\|} + 2^{-\|q\|}]$.

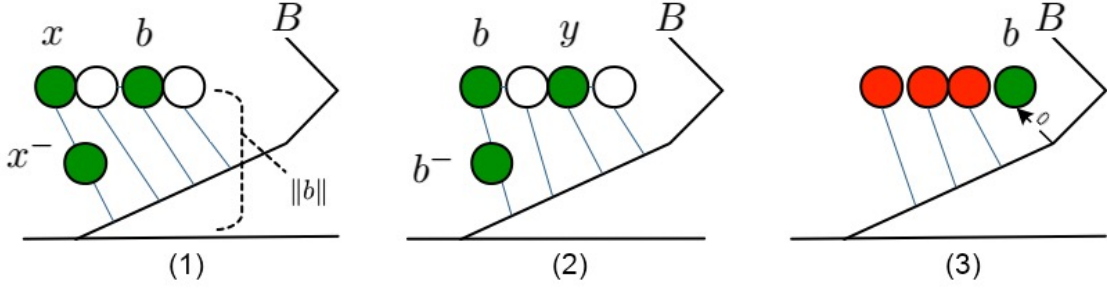


Figure 5: The above diagram represents the domain of the universal left-total Turing machine U and uses the same conventions as Figure 4, with 0s branching to the left and 1s branching to the right. It shows all the total strings of length $\|b\|$, including b . The large diagonal line is the border sequence, B . A string c is marked green if $\mathbf{K}_c(y/x) < l$ for all $x, y \in X$. By definition, b is a shortest green string. If x is green and $x \triangleleft y$, then y is green, since $\mathbf{K}_x \geq \mathbf{K}_y$. Furthermore, if x is green and total and x^- is total, then x^- is green, as $\mathbf{K}_b \geq \mathbf{K}_{b^-}$. It cannot be that there is a green $x \triangleleft b$ with $\|x\| = \|b\|$. Otherwise x^- is green, which is shorter than b . This is shown in part (1). Furthermore, there can't be a green y , with $b \triangleleft y$ and $\|y\| = \|b\|$. Otherwise b^- is green, contradicting the definition of b . This is shown in part (2). Thus b is unique, and since b^- is not total, b^- is a prefix of border, as shown in part (3). Thus an algorithm returning a green string of length $\|b\|$ will return b .

8 Minimum Conditional Complexity

We define a (k, l) -bunch X to be a finite set of strings, where $2^k < |X|$ and for all $x, x' \in X$, $\mathbf{K}(x/x') < l$. If $l \gg k$, such as the (k, l) -bunch consisting of two large independent random strings, then it is difficult to prove properties about it. If $l \approx 2k$, then interesting properties emerge.

Theorem 2 For (k, l) -bunch X , $\min_{x, y \in X} \mathbf{K}(y/x) <^{\log} \lceil l - 2k \rceil^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}) + 2\mathbf{K}(l, k)$.

Proof. We assume that the universal Turing machine U is left-total. Let b be a shortest total string such that $\mathbf{K}_b(y/x) < l$ for all $x, y \in X$. We have

$$\mathbf{K}(b/X) <^+ \mathbf{K}(\|b\|, l), \quad (18)$$

as there is a program that when enumerating total strings of length $\|b\|$, returns the first one with the desired properties. The first total string found is b , as shown in Figure 5. Thus b^- is not total, and $b^- \sqsubset B$ is a prefix of border. For total string c , let G^c be the graph defined by $(x, y) \in G$ iff $\mathbf{K}_c(y/x) < l$. Let $G = (G_E, G_V) = G^b$. We have

$$\mathbf{K}(G/b) <^+ \mathbf{K}(l) \quad (19)$$

$$\mathbf{K}(b/G) <^+ \mathbf{K}(\|b\|, l). \quad (20)$$

Equation 19 is because $G = G^b$. Equation 20 is due to the existence of a program that enumerates total strings of length $\|b\|$ and returns the first total string c such that $G \subseteq G^c$. It cannot be that there is a total string c shorter than b with $G \subseteq G^c$. Otherwise $G^c \supseteq G \supseteq X$, contradicting b being the shortest total string with $G^b \supseteq X$. Thus using this impossibility and the reasoning detailed in Figure 5, the program returns b . Theorem 1, gives $x, y \in X$, where

$$\mathbf{K}(y/x) <^+ \lceil l - 2k \rceil^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; H/G, k) + \mathbf{K}(G, k) \quad (21)$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}(X/G) &<^+ \mathbf{K}(X/b) + \mathbf{K}(b/G) \\ &<^+ \mathbf{K}(X/b) + \mathbf{K}(\|b\|, l),\end{aligned}\tag{22}$$

where Equation 22 is due to Equation 20. We also have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}(X/b, \mathcal{H}) &< \mathbf{K}(X/G, \mathcal{H}) + \mathbf{K}(G/b, \mathcal{H}), \\ &< \mathbf{K}(X/G, \mathcal{H}) + \mathbf{K}(l),\end{aligned}\tag{23}$$

where Equation 23 is due to Equation 19. So

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/G) &= \mathbf{K}(X/G) - \mathbf{K}(X/G, \mathcal{H}) \\ &<^+ \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/b) + \mathbf{K}(l) + \mathbf{K}(\|b\|, l).\end{aligned}\tag{24}$$

Combining Equations 21 and 24,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}(y/x) &<^+ [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/b) + \mathbf{K}(G) + \mathbf{K}(\|b\|) + O(\mathbf{K}(k, l)) \\ &<^+ [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/b) + \mathbf{K}(b) + \mathbf{K}(\|b\|) + O(\mathbf{K}(k, l))\end{aligned}\tag{25}$$

$$<^{\log} [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/b) + \mathbf{K}(b) + O(\mathbf{K}(k, l)).\tag{26}$$

Equation 25 is due to Equation 19. In Equation 26 is due to the fact that the precision is changed to $(<^{\log})$. Furthermore, $b^- \sqsubset B$ and the border B is the binary expansion of Chaitin's Omega (see Proposition 2), so b is random, with $\mathbf{K}(\|b\|) = O(\log \mathbf{K}(b))$. Using Lemma 1, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}(y/x) &<^{\log} [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}) + \mathbf{K}(b/X, \|b\|) + O(\mathbf{K}(k, l)) \\ &<^{\log} [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}) + O(\mathbf{K}(k, l))\end{aligned}\tag{27}$$

$$\tag{28}$$

where Equation 27 is due to Equation 18. Add $\langle k, l \rangle$ to the conditional on all terms results in

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}(y/x, k, l) &<^{\log} [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}/k, l) \\ \mathbf{K}(y/x) &<^{\log} [l - 2k]^+ + \mathbf{I}(X; \mathcal{H}) + 2\mathbf{K}(k, l).\end{aligned}$$

□

A Conservation Inequalities

The following section presents some conservation inequalities for support of the main result of this paper, which is the corollary in the introduction. The results and proofs are similar to that of [9], except we use $\mathbf{I}(a; \mathcal{H})$ instead of $\mathbf{I}(x : y) = \mathbf{K}(x) + \mathbf{K}(y) - \mathbf{K}(x, y)$.

Theorem 3 *For computable probability p over \mathbb{N} , $\mathbf{E}_{a \sim p} [2^{\mathbf{I}(\langle p, a \rangle; \mathcal{H})}] \overset{*}{<} 2^{\mathbf{I}(p; \mathcal{H})}$.*

Proof. $\sum_a p(a) \mathbf{m}(a, p/\mathcal{H}) / \mathbf{m}(a, p) \stackrel{*}{<} \mathbf{m}(p/\mathcal{H}) / \mathbf{m}(p)$. Some reworking implies the following inequality, with $\sum_a (\mathbf{m}(p)p(a) / \mathbf{m}(a, p)) (\mathbf{m}(a, p/\mathcal{H}) / \mathbf{m}(p/\mathcal{H})) \stackrel{*}{<} 1$. The term $\mathbf{m}(p)p(a) / \mathbf{m}(a, p) \stackrel{*}{<} 1$ because $\mathbf{K}(p) - \log p(a) >^+ \mathbf{K}(a, p)$. Furthermore, it follows directly that $\sum_a \mathbf{m}(a, p/\mathcal{H}) / \mathbf{m}(p/\mathcal{H}) \stackrel{*}{<} 1$. \square

Theorem 4 For partial computable $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, for all $a \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathbf{I}(f(a); \mathcal{H}) <^+ \mathbf{I}(a; \mathcal{H}) + \mathbf{K}(f)$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{I}(a; \mathcal{H}) &= \mathbf{K}(a) - \mathbf{K}(a/\mathcal{H}) \\ &>^+ \mathbf{K}(a, f(a)) - \mathbf{K}(a, f(a)/\mathcal{H}) - \mathbf{K}(f) \end{aligned}$$

The chain rule ($\mathbf{K}(x, y) =^+ \mathbf{K}(x) + \mathbf{K}(y/\mathbf{K}(x), x)$) applied twice results in

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{I}(a; \mathcal{H}) + \mathbf{K}(f) &>^+ \mathbf{K}(f(a)) + \mathbf{K}(a/f(a), \mathbf{K}(f(a))) - (\mathbf{K}(f(a)/\mathcal{H}) + \mathbf{K}(a/f(a), \mathbf{K}(f(a)/\mathcal{H}), \mathcal{H})) \\ &=^+ \mathbf{I}(f(a); \mathcal{H}) + \mathbf{K}(a/f(a), \mathbf{K}(f(a))) - \mathbf{K}(a/f(a), \mathbf{K}(f(a)/\mathcal{H}), \mathcal{H}) \\ &=^+ \mathbf{I}(f(a); \mathcal{H}) + \mathbf{K}(a/f(a), \mathbf{K}(f(a))) - \mathbf{K}(a/f(a), \mathbf{K}(f(a)), \mathbf{K}(f(a)/\mathcal{H}), \mathcal{H}) \\ &>^+ \mathbf{I}(f(a); \mathcal{H}). \end{aligned}$$

\square

Corollary 1 For computable probability p over \mathbb{N} , $\mathbf{E}_{a \sim p}[2^{\mathbf{I}(a; \mathcal{H})}] \stackrel{*}{<} 2^{\mathbf{I}(p; \mathcal{H})}$.

Corollary 2 For computable probability p over \mathbb{N} , $\Pr_{a \sim p}[\mathbf{I}(a; \mathcal{H}) > \mathbf{I}(p; \mathcal{H}) + m] \stackrel{*}{<} 2^{-m}$.

B Warmup Exercise in Stochasticity

Following lemma and its proofs demonstrates how the stochasticity term \mathbf{Ks} can be used in mathematical arguments. The general structure of the proof parallels the proof in Theorem 1. This lemma first appeared (in a slightly different form) as Lemma 5 in [4]. The lemma itself is just an exercise, and is not used in the paper.

Lemma 2 For $D \subseteq \Sigma^n$, $|D| = 2^s$, $\min_{a \in D} \mathbf{K}(a) <^{\log} n - s + \mathbf{Ks}(D) + O(\mathbf{K}(s, n))$.

Proof. We put (n, s) on an auxiliary tape to the universal Turing machine U . Thus all algorithms have access to (n, s) and all complexities implicitly have (n, s) as conditional terms. This can be done because the precision of the lemma is $O(\mathbf{K}(s, n))$. Let Q realize $\mathbf{Ks}(D)$, with $d = \max\{\mathbf{d}(D|Q), 1\}$. Thus Q is an elementary probability measure over Σ^* and $D \in \text{Support}(Q)$, with randomness deficiency d .

Let $F \subseteq \Sigma^n$ be a random set where each element $a \in \Sigma^n$ is selected independently with probability $cd2^{-s}$, where $c \in \mathbb{N}$ is chosen later. Let \mathcal{U}_n be the uniform measure over Σ^n . $\mathbf{E}[\mathcal{U}_n(F)] \leq cd2^{-s}$. Furthermore

$$\mathbf{E}[Q(\{G : |G| = 2^s, G \cap F = \emptyset\})] \leq \sum_G Q(G)(1 - cd2^{-s})^{2^s} < e^{-cd}.$$

Thus by the Markov inequality, $W \subseteq \Sigma^n$ can be chosen such that $\mathcal{U}_n(W) \leq 2cd2^{-s}$ and $Q(\{G : |G| = 2^s, G \cap W = \emptyset\}) \leq e^{1-cd}$. $\mathbf{K}(W|Q, d, c) = O(1)$. It must $D \cap W \neq \emptyset$. Otherwise, we get

a contradiction with the following reasoning. Let $t : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ be a Q -test, with $t(G) = [|G| = 2^s, G \cap W = \emptyset]e^{cd-1}$, and $\sum_G Q(G)t(G) \leq$. Thus t gives a high score to sets G which do not intersect W . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K}(D|Q, d, c) &<^+ -\log Q(D)t(D) \\ &<^+ -\log Q(D) - (\log e)cd \\ (\log e)cd &<^+ -\log Q(D) - \mathbf{K}(D|Q) + \mathbf{K}(d, c) \\ &<^+ d + \mathbf{K}(d, c), \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction for large enough c . Thus there is an $x \in D \cap W$. Thus since $q(a) = [a \in W](2^s/cd)\mathcal{U}_n(a)$ is a semi-measure, we have

$$\mathbf{K}(x) <^+ -\log q(x) + \mathbf{K}(q) <^+ n + \log d - s + \mathbf{K}(d) + \mathbf{K}(Q) <^+ n + \log d - s + \mathbf{K}s(D).$$

□

Acknowledgements. The author thanks the anonymous referees of the Theoretical Computer Science journal for their careful review of the paper and insightful comments.

References

- [1] G. J. Chaitin. A Theory of Program Size Formally Identical to Information Theory. *Journal of the ACM*, 22(3):329–340, 1975.
- [2] Samuel Epstein. All sampling methods produce outliers. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 67(11):7568–7578, 2021. doi: 10.1109/TIT.2021.3109779.
- [3] Samuel Epstein. On the conditional complexity of sets of strings. *CoRR*, 1907.01018, 2021. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.01018>.
- [4] Samuel Epstein. A note on the outliers theorem. *CoRR*, 2203.08733, 2021. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.08733>. v2.
- [5] P. Gács, J. Tromp, and P. Vitányi. Algorithmic Statistics. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 47(6):2443–2463, 2001.
- [6] Peter Gács. Lecture notes on descriptonal complexity and randomness. *CoRR*, abs/2105.04704, 2021. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.04704>.
- [7] A. N. Kolmogorov. Three approaches to the quantitative definition of information. *Problems in Information Transmission*, 1:1–7, 1965.
- [8] A. N. Kolmogorov and V. A. Uspensky. Algorithms and Randomness. *SIAM Theory of Probability and Its Applications*, 32(3):389–412, 1987.
- [9] L. A. Levin. Randomness conservation inequalities; information and independence in mathematical theories. *Information and Control*, 61(1):15–37, 1984.
- [10] L. A. Levin. Occam bound on lowest complexity of elements. *Annals of Pure and Applied Logic*, 167(10):897–900, 2016. And also: S. Epstein and L.A. Levin, Sets have simple members, arXiv preprint arXiv:1107.1458, 2011.

- [11] M. Li and P. Vitányi. *An Introduction to Kolmogorov Complexity and Its Applications*. Springer Publishing Company, Incorporated, 3 edition, 2008.
- [12] A. Romashchenko. Clustering with respect to the information distance. *Theoretical Computer Science*, 2022. URL <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304397522004133>.
- [13] Andrei E. Romashchenko. Extracting the mutual information for a triple of binary strings. In *IEEE Conference on Computational Complexity*, pages 221–229. IEEE Computer Society, 2003.
- [14] A. Shen. The concept of (alpha,beta)-stochasticity in the Kolmogorov sense, and its properties. *Soviet Mathematics Doklady*, 28(1):295–299, 1983.
- [15] A. Shen. Discussion on Kolmogorov Complexity and Statistical Analysis. *The Computer Journal*, 42(4):340–342, 1999.
- [16] A. Shen. Game Arguments in Computability Theory and Algorithmic Information Theory. In *Proceedings of 8th Conference on Computability in Europe*, volume 7318 of *LNCS*, pages 655–666, 2012.
- [17] R. J. Solomonoff. A Formal Theory of Inductive Inference, Part I. *Information and Control*, 7:1–22, 1964.
- [18] N. Vereshchagin and P. Vitányi. Kolmogorov’s Structure Functions and Model Selection. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 50(12):3265 – 3290, 2004.
- [19] Nikolay K. Vereshchagin and Alexander Shen. Algorithmic statistics: Forty years later. In *Computability and Complexity*, pages 669–737, 2017.
- [20] V.V. V’Yugin. On Randomness Defect of a Finite Object Relative to Measures with Given Complexity Bounds. *SIAM Theory of Probability and Its Applications*, 32:558–563, 1987.
- [21] V.V. V’Yugin. Algorithmic complexity and stochastic properties of finite binary sequences. *The Computer Journal*, 42:294–317, 1999.
- [22] A. K. Zvonkin and L. A. Levin. The complexity of finite objects and the development of the concepts of information and randomness by means of the theory of algorithms. *Russian Math. Surveys*, page 11, 1970.