
Information Theory

Mohamed Hamada

**Software Engineering Lab
The University of Aizu**

**Email: hamada@u-aizu.ac.jp
URL: <http://www.u-aizu.ac.jp/~hamada>**

Today's Topics

- **Entropy**
- **Conditional Entropy**
- **Example**
- **Joint Entropy**
- **Chain Rule**

Entropy $H(S)$

- Entropy is the average information content of a source

$$H(S) = E[I(s_k)]$$

$$H(S) = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} p_k \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{p_k} \right)$$

Entropy

Comments

Entropy is a measure of how much information is encoded in a message. Higher the entropy, higher the information content.

We could also say entropy is a measure of uncertainty in a message.

Information and uncertainty are equivalent concepts.

Entropy gives the actual number of bits of information contained in a message source.

Example: if the probability of the character `e` appearing in this slide is 1/16, then the information content of this character is 4 bits.

So the character string `eeeeee` has a total of 20 bits (contrast this to using an 8-bit ASCII coding that could result in 40 bits to represent `eeeeee`.

Conditional Entropy

Conditional Entropy

$$H(Y|X=v)$$

Suppose I'm trying to predict output Y and I have input X

Conditional Entropy $H(Y|X=v)$

Example

If I know the student's major could I predict if he likes computer games?

Input: $X = \text{College Major}$

Output: $Y = \text{Likes "Computer Games"}$

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

Marginal distribution for X

X \ Y	Yes	No	
Math	0.25	0.25	$P(X=\text{Math})=0.5$
CS	0.25	0	$P(X=\text{CS})=0.25$
History	0	0.25	$P(X=\text{History})=0.25$
	$P(Y=\text{Yes})=0.5$	$P(Y=\text{No})=0.5$	1

Marginal distribution for Y

Conditional Entropy $H(Y|X=v)$

Example

If I know the student's major could I predict if he likes computer games?

Input: $X = \text{College Major}$

Output: $Y = \text{Likes "Computer Games"}$

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

X \ Y	Yes	No	
Math	0.25	0.25	$P(X=\text{Math})=0.5$
CS	0.25	0	$P(X=\text{CS})=0.25$
History	0	0.25	$P(X=\text{History})=0.25$
	$P(Y=\text{Yes})=0.5$	$P(Y=\text{No})=0.5$	1

$$H(X) = -0.5 \log 0.5 - 0.25 \log 0.25 - 0.25 \log 0.25 = 1.5$$

$$H(Y) = -0.5 \log 0.5 - 0.5 \log 0.5 = 1$$

Specific Conditional Entropy $H(Y|X=v)$

Example

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

Definition of Specific Conditional Entropy:

$H(Y | X=v)$ = **The entropy of Y among only those records in which X has value v**

Specific Conditional Entropy $H(Y|X=v)$

Example

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

Definition of Specific Conditional Entropy:

$H(Y | X=v)$ = **The entropy of Y among only those records in which X has value v**

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} H(Y|X=\text{Math}) &= - \sum_{y \in \{\text{Yes}, \text{No}\}} p(y|X=\text{Math}) \log p(y|X=\text{Math}) \\ &= -p(\text{Yes} | X=\text{Math}) \log p(\text{Yes} | X=\text{Math}) - p(\text{No} | X=\text{Math}) \log p(\text{No} | X=\text{Math}) \\ &= -0.5 \log 0.5 - 0.5 \log 0.5 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$H(Y | X=\text{Math}) = 1$$

Specific Conditional Entropy $H(Y|X=v)$

Example

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

Definition of Specific Conditional Entropy:

$H(Y|X=v)$ = **The entropy of Y among only those records in which X has value v**

Example:

$$H(Y|X=History) = -\sum_{y \in \{Yes, No\}} p(y|X=History) \log p(y|X=History)$$

$$= -p(Yes|X=History) \log p(Yes|X=History) - p(No|X=History) \log p(No|X=History)$$

$$= -0 \log 0 - 1 \log 1 = 0$$

$$H(Y|X=History) = 0$$

Specific Conditional Entropy $H(Y|X=v)$

Example

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

Definition of Specific Conditional Entropy:

$H(Y | X=v)$ = **The entropy of Y among only those records in which X has value v**

Example:

$$H(Y|X=CS) = -\sum_{y \in \{Yes, No\}} p(y|X=CS) \log p(y|X=CS)$$

$$= -p(Yes | X=CS) \log p(Yes | X=CS) - p(No | X=CS) \log p(No | X=CS)$$

$$= -1 \log 1 - 0 \log 0 = 0$$

$$H(Y | X=CS) = 0$$

Specific Conditional Entropy $H(Y|X=v)$

Example

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

Definition of Specific Conditional Entropy:

$H(Y|X=v)$ = **The entropy of Y among only those records in which X has value v**

Example:

- $H(Y|X=\text{Math}) = 1$
- $H(Y|X=\text{History}) = 0$
- $H(Y|X=\text{CS}) = 0$

Conditional Entropy $H(Y|X)$

Is the amount of information contained in Y such that X is given

Example

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

Definition of Conditional Entropy:

$H(Y|X)$ = The average specific conditional entropy of Y

= if you choose a record at random what will be the conditional entropy of Y, conditioned on that row's value of X

= Expected number of bits to transmit Y if both sides will know the value of X

$$= \sum_j \text{Prob}(X=v_j) H(Y | X = v_j) \quad 14$$

Conditional Entropy

Example

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

Definition of Conditional Entropy:

$H(Y|X)$ = The average conditional entropy of Y

$$= \sum_j \text{Prob}(X=v_j) H(Y | X = v_j)$$

Example:

v_j	$\text{Prob}(X=v_j)$	$H(Y X = v_j)$
Math	0.5	1
History	0.25	0
CS	0.25	0

$$H(Y|X) = 0.5 * 1 + 0.25 * 0 + 0.25 * 0 = 0.5$$

Joint Entropy

Joint Entropy

Is the amount of information contained in both events X and Y

$$H(X, Y) = -\sum_{x,y} p(x,y) \log p(x,y)$$

Joint Entropy

Chain Rule

Relationship between conditional and joint entropy

$$H(X, Y) = H(X) + H(Y | X)$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} H(X, Y) &= - \sum_{X, Y} P(x, y) \log_2 P(x, y) = - \sum_{X, Y} P(x, y) \log_2 P(x) P(y | x) \\ &= - \sum_X P(x) \sum_Y P(y | x) \log_2 P(x) - \sum_{X, Y} P(x, y) \log_2 P(y | x) = H(X) + H(Y | X) \end{aligned}$$

$$H(X | Y) = - \sum_{X, Y} P(x, y) \log_2 P(x | y)$$

Joint Entropy

Is the amount of information contained in both events X and Y

$$H(X,Y) = H(X) + H(Y|X)$$

Also $H(X,Y) = H(Y) + H(X|Y)$

- Intuition: first describe Y and then X given Y
- From this: $H(X) - H(X|Y) = H(Y) - H(Y|X)$

Joint Entropy

Example

$$H(X,Y) = H(X) + H(Y|X)$$

X	Y
Math	Yes
History	No
CS	Yes
Math	No
Math	No
CS	Yes
History	No
Math	Yes

v_j	Prob($X=v_j$)	$H(Y X = v_j)$
Math	0.5	1
History	0.25	0
CS	0.25	0

$$H(X) = 1.5$$

$$H(Y) = 1$$

$$H(Y|X) = 0.5$$

$$H(X,Y) = H(X) + H(Y|X) = 1.5 + 0.5 = 2$$

Joint Entropy

Comments

$$\begin{aligned} H(X,Y) &= H(X) + H(Y|X) \\ &= H(Y) + H(X|Y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} H(X,Y,Z) &= H(X) + H(Y|X) + H(Z|XY) \\ &\leq H(X) + H(Y) + H(Z) \end{aligned}$$