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Handout 9 — Information Theory and Coding
Solutions to Homework 4 — Oct. 17, 2022

Problem 1.

(a) We have $H\big(f(U)\big) \leq H\big(f(U), U\big) = H(U) + H\big(f(U)\big|U\big) = H(U) + 0 = H(U)$.

(b) Notice that $U -\!\!\circ\!- V -\!\!\circ\!- f(V)$ is a Markov chain. The data processing inequality implies that $H(U) - H\big(U\big|f(V)\big) = I\big(U; f(V)\big) \leq I(U;V) = H(U) - H(U|V)$. Therefore, $H(U|V) \leq H\big(U\big|f(V)\big)$.

Problem 2.

(a) We have:

$$\begin{aligned} H(U|\hat{U}) &\leq H(U,W|\hat{U}) = H(W|\hat{U}) + H(U|\hat{U},W) \leq H(W) + H(U|\hat{U},W) \\ &= H(W) + H(U|\hat{U},W=0)\cdot\mathbb{P}[W=0] + H(U|\hat{U},W=1)\cdot\mathbb{P}[W=1] \\ &\overset{(*)}{\leq} h_2(p_e) + 0\cdot(1-p_e) + \log(|\mathcal{U}|-1)\cdot p_e = h_2(p_e) + p_e\log(|\mathcal{U}|-1), \end{aligned}$$

where $(*)$ follows from the following facts:

- $H(W) = h_2(p_e)$.
- $H(U|\hat{U},W=0) = 0$: conditioned on $W=0$, we know that $U=\hat{U}$ and so the conditional entropy $H(U|\hat{U},W=0)$ is equal to 0.
- $H(U|\hat{U},W=1) \leq \log(|\mathcal{U}|-1)$: conditioned on $W=1$, we know that $U \neq \hat{U}$ and so there are at most $|\mathcal{U}|-1$ values for U. Therefore, the conditional entropy $H(U|\hat{U},W=0)$ is at most $\log(|\mathcal{U}|-1)$.

(b) Let $\hat{U} = f(V)$. We have $H(U|\hat{U}) \leq h_2(p_e) + p_e\log(|\mathcal{U}|-1)$ from (a). On the other hand, from Problem 1(b) we have $H(U|V) \leq H\big(U\big|f(V)\big) = H(U|\hat{U})$. We conclude that $H(U|V) \leq h_2(p_e) + p_e\log(|\mathcal{U}|-1)$.

Problem 3.

(a) Since

$$P(U=u, Z=z) = \begin{cases} p(u) & \text{if } z=1, \\ q(u) & \text{if } z=2, \end{cases}$$

one can immediately see that the distribution of U is $r(u) = \theta p(u) + (1-\theta)q(u)$.

(b) $H(U) = h(r)$, and

$$H(U|Z) = \sum_z P(Z=z)H(U|Z=z) = \theta h(p) + (1-\theta)h(q).$$

The last equality follows since given $z=1$ (resp. $z=2$) U has distribution p (resp. q). Since $H(U) \geq H(U|Z)$, we have proved that $h(r) \geq \theta h(p) + (1-\theta)h(q)$.

Problem 4.

(a) We have:

$$S = \sum_{u\in\mathcal{U}} \max\{P_1(u), P_2(u)\} \overset{(*)}{\leq} \sum_{u\in\mathcal{U}}(P_1(u) + P_2(u))$$
$$= \sum_{u\in\mathcal{U}} P_1(u) + \sum_{u\in\mathcal{U}} P_2(u) = 1 + 1 = 2,$$

It is easy to see from $(*)$ that $S = 2$ if and only if $\max\{P_1(u), P_2(u)\} = P_1(u)+P_2(u)$ for all $u \in \mathcal{U}$, which is equivalent to say that there is no $u \in \mathcal{U}$ for which we have $P_1(u) > 0$ and $P_2(u) > 0$. In other words, $S = 2$ if and only if

$$\{u \in \mathcal{U} : P_1(u) > 0\} \cap \{u \in \mathcal{U} : P_2(u) > 0\} = \emptyset.$$

(b) Let $l_i = \lceil \log_2 \frac{S}{\max\{P_1(a_i),P_2(a_i)\}} \rceil$, and let us compute the Kraft sum:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{M} 2^{-l_i} \leq \sum_{i=1}^{M} 2^{-\log_2 \frac{S}{\max\{P_1(a_i),P_2(a_i)\}}} = \sum_{i=1}^{M} \frac{\max\{P_1(a_i), P_2(a_i)\}}{S} = 1.$$

Since the Kraft sum is at most 1, there exists a prefix-free code where the length of the codeword associated to a_i is l_i.

(c) Since the code constructed in (b) is prefix free, it must be the case that $\bar{l} \geq H(U)$. In order to prove the upper bounds, let P^* be the true distribution (which is either P_1 or P_2). It is easy to see that $P^*(a_i) \leq \max\{P_1(a_i), P_2(a_i)\}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$. We have:

$$\bar{l} = \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).l_i = \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).\left\lceil \log_2 \frac{S}{\max\{P_1(a_i), P_2(a_i)\}} \right\rceil$$
$$< \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).\left(1 + \log_2 \frac{S}{\max\{P_1(a_i), P_2(a_i)\}}\right)$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).\left(1 + \log S + \log_2 \frac{1}{\max\{P_1(a_i), P_2(a_i)\}}\right)$$
$$= 1 + \log S + \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i). \log_2 \frac{1}{\max\{P_1(a_i), P_2(a_i)\}}$$
$$\overset{(*)}{\leq} 1 + \log S + \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i). \log_2 \frac{1}{P^*(a_i)} = H(U) + \log S + 1 \leq H(U) + 2,$$

where the inequality $(*)$ uses the fact that $P^*(a_i) \leq \max\{P_1(a_i), P_2(a_i)\}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$.

(d) Now let $l_i = \lceil \log_2 \frac{S}{\max\{P_1(a_i),\ldots,P_k(a_i)\}} \rceil$, and let us compute the Kraft sum:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{M} 2^{-l_i} \leq \sum_{i=1}^{M} 2^{-\log_2 \frac{S}{\max\{P_1(a_i),\ldots,P_k(a_i)\}}} = \sum_{i=1}^{M} \frac{\max\{P_1(a_i), \ldots, P_k(a_i)\}}{S} = 1.$$

Since the Kraft sum is at most 1, there exists a prefix-free code where the length of the codeword associated to a_i is l_i. Since the code is prefix free, it must be the case that $\bar{l} \geq H(U)$. In order to prove the upper bounds, let P^* be the true distribution (which is either P_1 or ... or P_k). It is easy to see that $P^*(a_i) \leq \max\{P_1(a_i), \dots, P_k(a_i)\}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{l} &= \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).l_i = \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).\left\lceil \log_2 \frac{S}{\max\{P_1(a_i), \dots, P_k(a_i)\}} \right\rceil \\
&< \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).\Big(1 + \log_2 \frac{S}{\max\{P_1(a_i), \dots, P_k(a_i)\}}\Big) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).\Big(1 + \log_2 S + \log_2 \frac{1}{\max\{P_1(a_i), \dots, P_k(a_i)\}}\Big) \\
&= 1 + \log_2 S + \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).\log_2 \frac{1}{\max\{P_1(a_i), \dots, P_k(a_i)\}} \\
&\overset{(*)}{\leq} 1 + \log_2 S + \sum_{i=1}^{M} P^*(a_i).\log_2 \frac{1}{P^*(a_i)} = H(U) + \log_2 S + 1,
\end{aligned}$$

where the inequality $(*)$ uses the fact that $P^*(a_i) \leq \max\{P_1(a_i), \dots, P_k(a_i)\}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$. Now notice that $\max\{P_1(a_i), \dots, P_k(a_i)\} \leq \sum_{j=1}^{k} P_j(a_i)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$. Therefore, we have

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{M} \max\{P_1(a_i), \dots, P_k(a_i)\} \leq \sum_{i=1}^{M}\sum_{j=1}^{k} P_j(a_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{k}\sum_{i=1}^{M} P_j(a_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{k} 1 = k.$$

We conclude that $H(U) \leq \bar{l} \leq H(U) + \log S + 1 \leq H(U) + \log k + 1$.

Problem 5.

(a) We prove the identity by induction on $n \geq 1$. For $n = 1$, the identity is trivial. Let $n > 1$ and suppose that the identity is true up to $n - 1$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
I(Y_1^{n-1}; X_n) &= I(Y_1^{n-2}, Y_{n-1}; X_n) \overset{(*)}{=} I(Y_1^{n-2}; X_n) + I(X_n; Y_{n-1}|Y_1^{n-2}) \\
&\overset{(**)}{=} \Big(\sum_{i=1}^{n-2} I(X_n; Y_i|Y_1^{i-1})\Big) + I(X_n; Y_{n-1}|Y_1^{n-2}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} I(X_n; Y_i|Y_1^{i-1}).
\end{aligned}$$

The identity $(*)$ is by the chain rule for mutual information, and the identity (**) is by the induction hypothesis.

(b) For every $0 \leq i \leq n$, define $a_i = I(X_{i+1}^n; Y_1^i)$, and for every $1 \leq i \leq n$, define $b_i = I(X_{i+1}^n; Y_1^{i-1})$. It is easy to see that $a_0 = a_n = 0$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i=1}^{n} I(X_{i+1}^n; Y_i|Y_1^{i-1}) &\overset{(*)}{=} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \Big(I(X_{i+1}^n; Y_1^i) - I(X_{i+1}^n; Y_1^{i-1})\Big) = \Big(\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i\Big) - \Big(\sum_{i=1}^{n} b_i\Big) \\
&\overset{(**)}{=} \Big(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_i\Big) - \Big(\sum_{i=1}^{n} b_i\Big) = \Big(\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{i-1}\Big) - \Big(\sum_{i=1}^{n} b_i\Big) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \Big(a_{i-1} - b_i\Big) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \Big(I(X_i^n; Y_1^{i-1}) - I(X_{i+1}^n; Y_1^{i-1})\Big) \overset{(***)}{=} \sum_{i=1}^{n} I(Y_1^{i-1}; X_i|X_{i+1}^n).
\end{aligned}$$

The identities $(*)$ and $(***)$ are by the chain rule for mutual information. The identity $(**)$ follows from the fact that $a_0 = a_n = 0$, which implies that $\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_i$.

Problem 6.

(a) We can write the following chain of inequalities:

$$Q^n(\mathbf{x}) \stackrel{1}{=} \prod_{i=1}^{n} Q(x_i) \stackrel{2}{=} \prod_{a\in\mathcal{X}} Q(a)^{N(a|\mathbf{x})} \stackrel{3}{=} \prod_{a\in\mathcal{X}} Q(a)^{nP_{\mathbf{x}}(a)} = \prod_{a\in\mathcal{X}} 2^{nP_{\mathbf{x}}(a)\log Q(a)} \tag{1}$$
$$= \prod_{a\in\mathcal{X}} 2^{n(P_{\mathbf{x}}(a)\log Q(a) - P_{\mathbf{x}}(a)\log P_{\mathbf{x}}(a) + P_{\mathbf{x}}(a)\log P_{\mathbf{x}}(a))} \tag{2}$$
$$= 2^{n\sum_{a\in\mathcal{X}}(-P_{\mathbf{x}}(a)\log\frac{P_{\mathbf{x}}(a)}{Q(a)} + P_{\mathbf{x}}(a)\log P_{\mathbf{x}}(a))} = 2^{n(-D(P_{\mathbf{x}}||Q)+H(P_{\mathbf{x}}))},$$

where 1 follows because the sequence is i.i.d., grouping symbols gives 2, and 3 is the definition of type.

(b) Upper bound: We know that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} = 1.$$

Consider one term and set $p = k/n$. Then,

$$1 \geq \binom{n}{k}\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)^k \left(1-\frac{k}{n}\right)^{n-k} = \binom{n}{k} 2^{n\left(\frac{k}{n}\log\frac{k}{n} + \frac{n-k}{n}\log\frac{n-k}{n}\right)} = \binom{n}{k} 2^{-nh_2(\frac{k}{n})}$$

Lower bound: Define $S_j = \binom{n}{j} p^j (1-p)^{n-j}$. We can compute

$$\frac{S_{j+1}}{S_j} = \frac{n-j}{j+1}\frac{p}{1-p}.$$

One can see that this ratio is a decreasing function in j. It equals 1, if $j = np + p - 1$, so $\frac{S_{j+1}}{S_j} < 1$ for $j = \lfloor np + p \rfloor$ and $\frac{S_{j+1}}{S_j} \geq 1$ for any smaller j. Hence, S_j takes its maximum value at $j = \lfloor np + p \rfloor$, which equals k in our case. From this we have that

$$1 = \sum_{j=0}^{n} \binom{n}{j} p^j (1-p)^{n-j} \leq (n+1)\max_j \binom{n}{j} p^j (1-p)^j$$
$$\leq (n+1)\binom{n}{k}\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)^k \left(1-\frac{k}{n}\right)^{n-k} = (n+1)\binom{n}{k} 2^{-nh_2(\frac{k}{n})}. \tag{3}$$

The last equality comes from the derivation we had when proving the upper bound.

(c) Since for every $\mathbf{x} \in T(P)$, $Q^n(\mathbf{x}) = 2^{-n(H(P)+D(P\|Q))}$ (by part (a)) and $\frac{1}{n+1}2^{nH(P)} \leq |T(P)| \leq 2^{nH(P)}$ (by part (b)), we have

$$\frac{1}{n+1}2^{-nD(P\|Q)} \leq Q^n(T(P)) \leq 2^{-nD(P\|Q)}$$