

lecture 2: Shannon(-Wiener) Information

# Shannon-Wiener Information



# Complex adaptive systems and computational intelligence (casci lab)

## Resources

- web page
  - [casci.binghamton.edu/academics/ssie501](http://casci.binghamton.edu/academics/ssie501)
- online class
  - [binghamton.zoom.us/j/93351260610](https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/93351260610)
- blog: sciber
  - [sciber.blogspot.com](http://sciber.blogspot.com)
- Brightspace
  - [brightspace.binghamton.edu/d2l/home/358842](http://brightspace.binghamton.edu/d2l/home/358842)

SSIE-501/ISE-440 - Fall 2024

luis m. rocha



Nisreen Al-Bzour

### office hours:

Tu & Th: 10:30-13:00

K1, [binghamton.zoom.us/my/](https://binghamton.zoom.us/my/)

### office hours:

Tuesdays 9:00- 11:30am

[binghamton.zoom.us/my/luismrocha](https://binghamton.zoom.us/my/luismrocha)



[bit.ly/atBIC](https://bit.ly/atBIC)



[rocha@binghamton.edu](mailto:rocha@binghamton.edu)  
[casci.binghamton.edu/academics/ssie501](http://casci.binghamton.edu/academics/ssie501)

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## evaluation

- **Participation: 20%.**
  - class discussion, everybody reads and discusses every paper
  - engagement in class
- **Paper Presentation and Discussion: 20%**
  - **SSIE501** students are assigned to papers individually or as group lead presenters and discussants
    - all students are supposed to read and participate in discussion of every paper.
  - Presenter prepares short summary of assigned paper (15 minutes)
    - no formal presentations or PowerPoint unless figures are indispensable.
  - Summary should:
    - 1) Identify the key goals of the paper (not go in detail over every section)
    - 2) What discussant liked and did not like
    - 3) What authors achieved and did not
    - 4) Any other relevant connections to other class readings and beyond.
  - **ISE440** students chose one of the presented papers to participate as lead discussant
    - not to present the paper, but to comment on points 2-3) above
  - Class discussion is opened to all
    - lead discussant ensures we important paper contributions and failures are addressed
- **Black Box: 60%**
  - Group Project (2 parts)
    - Assignment I (25%) and Assignment II (35%)



[bit.ly/atBIC](https://bit.ly/atBIC)

## key events coming up

- **Paper Presentation: 20%**
  - Present (501) and lead (501&440) the discussion of an article related to the class materials
    - Enginet students post/send video or join by Zoom synchronously
- **Module 1: Cybernetics and the Information Turn**
- **Next classes**
  - **Discussion Set 1 (Group 1): September 5th**
    - Kline, Ronald R [2015]. *The cybernetics moment, or, why we call our age the information age*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Chapters 1-2.
      - Optional: Heims, S.G. [1991]. *The Cybernetics Group*. MIT Press. Chapters: 1,2, 11, and 12
      - Optional: McCulloch, W. and W. Pitts [1943], "A Logical Calculus of Ideas Immanent in Nervous Activity". *Bulletin of Mathematical Biophysics* **5**:115-133.
    - Gleick, J. [2011]. *The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood*. Random House. Chapter 8.
      - Optional: Prokopenko, Mikhail, Fabio Boschetti, and Alex J. Ryan. "An information theoretic primer on complexity, self-organization, and emergence." *Complexity* **15.1** (2009): 11-28.
  - **Discussion Set 2 (Group 2)**
    - Brenner, Sydney. [2012]. "History of Science. The Revolution in the Life Sciences". *Science* **338** (6113): 1427-8.
    - Brenner, Sydney. [2012]. "Turing centenary: Life's code script. *Nature* **482** (7386) (February 22): 461-461.
    - Cobb, Matthew. [2013]. "1953: When Genes Became 'Information'." *Cell* **153** (3): 503-506.
      - Optional: Searls, David B. [2010]. "The Roots of Bioinformatics". *PLoS Computational Biology* **6**(6): e1000809.
    - Weaver, W. [1948]. "Science and Complexity". *American Scientist*, **36**(4): 536-44. Also available in Klir, G.J. [2001]. *Facets of systems Science*. Springer, pp: 533-540.
  - **Discussion by all**

more upcoming readings (check brightspace)

- **Paper Presentation: 20%**
  - Present (501) and lead (501&440)
    - Enginet students post/send video or
- **Module 2: Systems Science**
  - Discussion Set 3:
    - Klir, G.J. [2001]. *Facets of system*
      - Optional:
        - Rosen, R. [1986]. "Some commen
        - Klir, G.J. [2001]. *Facets of system*
        - Wigner, E.P. [1960], "The unreason
        - in mathematical sciences delivere
    - Klir, G.J. [2001]. *Facets of system*
  - Discussion Set 4:
    - Klir, G.J. [2001]. *Facets of system*
      - Optional: Klir, G.J. [2001]. *Facets*
    - Schuster, P. (2016). The end of l
    - of computational facilities. *Comp*
    - Von Foerster, H., P. M. Mora and
    - Science **132**(3436):1291-5.
- **Future Modules**
  - See brightspace

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Fall 2023 Intro to Systems Science (ISE-...)

Course Home Calendar **Content** Assignments Quizzes Discussions Evaluation ▾ Classlist Course Tools ▾ Help ▾

Search Topics 🔍

Papers for Presentations ▾

Add dates and restrictions...

All SSIE501 Students are assigned to one paper as *lead presenters and discussants*, but all students are supposed to read and participate in the discussion of every paper. During class, the presenter prepares a short summary of the paper (10-15 minutes)---no formal presentations or PowerPoint unless figures are indispensable. The summary should:

- 1) Identify the key goals of the paper (not go in detail over every section)
- 2) What discussant liked and did not like
- 3) What authors achieved and did not
- 4) Any other relevant connections to other class readings and beyond.

After initial summary, discussion is opened to all, and role of presenter is to lead the discussion to make sure we address the important paper contributions and failures. **ISE440 students** will chose one of the presented papers to participate as lead discussant, whose role is not to present the paper, but to comment on points 2-3) above.

**Next Presentations:**

Module 1 - Cybernetics and the Information Turn

Tuesday, August 29th

**Presenter 1:** Heims, S.G. [1991]. *The Cybernetics Group*. MIT Press. [Chapters: 1 and 2.](#)

Syllabus / Overview

Bookmarks

Course Schedule

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Syllabus

Office Hours

Readings 45

Papers for Presentations ←

Zoom 2

For EngiNet Students 1



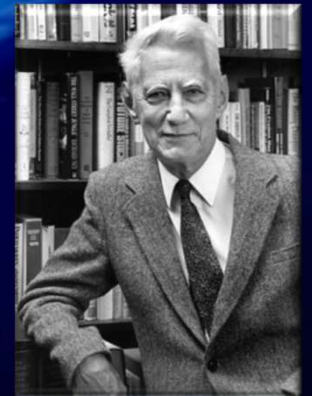
Hartley, R.V.L., "Transmission of Information", *Bell System Technical Journal*, July 1928, p.535.

- Information is transmitted through noisy communication channels
  - Ralph Hartley and Claude Shannon (at Bell Labs), the fathers of Information Theory, worked on the problem of efficiently transmitting information; i. e. **decreasing the uncertainty** in the transmission of information.

C. E. Shannon [1948], "A mathematical theory of communication". *Bell System Technical Journal*, **27**:379-423 and 623-656

C. E. Shannon, "A Symbolic analysis of relay and switching circuits" .*MS Thesis*, (unpublished) MIT, 1937.

C. E. Shannon, "An algebra for theoretical genetics." *Phd Dissertation*, MIT, 1940.



$$H(A) = \log_2(16) = 4$$

$$H(B) = \log_2(4) = 2$$

$$H(A) = \log_2 |A|$$

Measured in bits

Number of Choices

Quantifies how many yes-no questions need to be asked to establish what the correct alternative is

■ Example

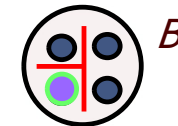
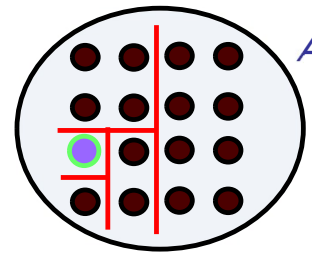
● Menu Choices

■ A = 16 Entrees

■ B = 4 Desserts

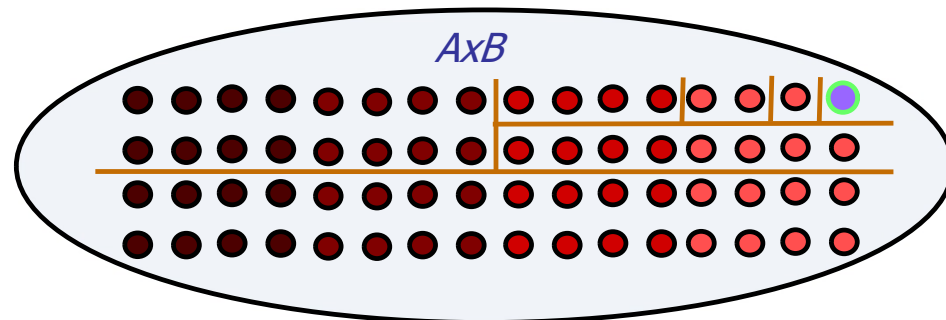
● How many dinner combinations?

■  $16 \times 4 = 64$

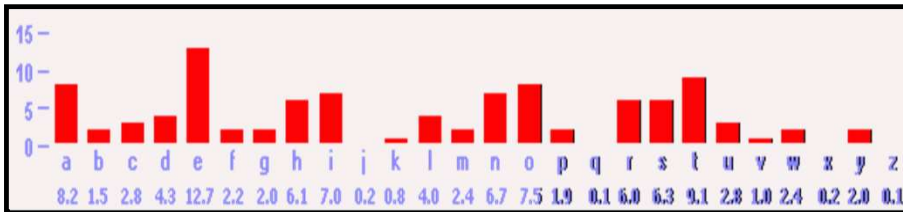


$$H(A \times B) = \log_2(16 \times 4) = \log_2(64) = 6$$

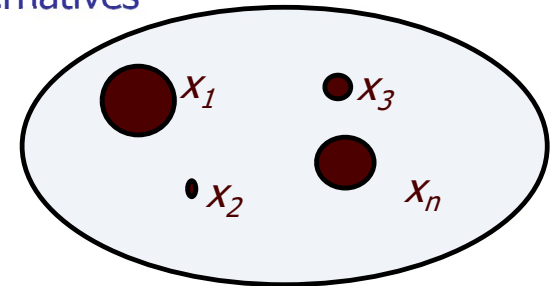
$$= \log_2(16) + \log_2(4) = 6$$



uncertainty-based information



A = Set of weighted Alternatives



■ Shannon's measure

- The **average** amount of uncertainty associated with a set of **weighted** alternatives (e.g. messages) is measured by the **average** amount of information needed to remove the uncertainty

$$H_S(A) = - \sum_{i=1}^n p(x_i) \log_2(p(x_i))$$

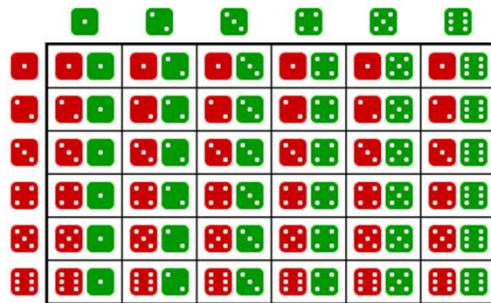
Measured in bits

Probability of alternative



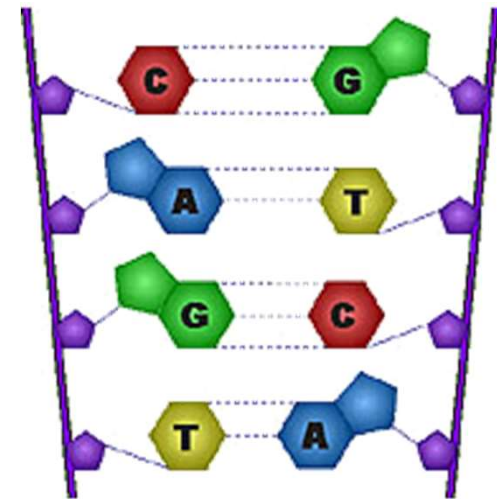
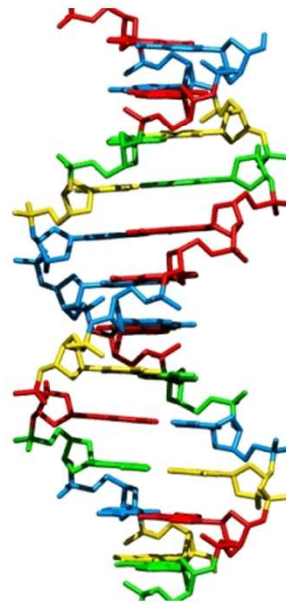
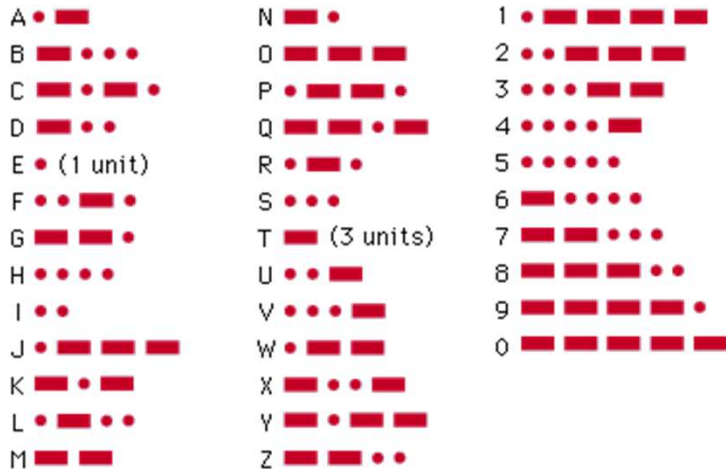
alphabet examples

**a b c d e f g**  
**h i j k l m**  
**n o p q r s t**  
**u v w x y z**  
**ch ll ñ**  
 ~-..3A/1~



Message encoded in an alphabet of  $n$  symbols, for example:

- English (26 letters + space + punctuations)
- Morse code (dot, dash, space)
- DNA (A, T, G, C)
- Two dice (11 integers)



5-letter "english"

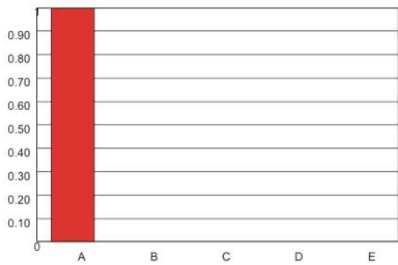
- Given a symbol set {A,B,C,D,E}
  - And occurrence probabilities  $P_A, P_B, P_C, P_D, P_E,$
- The Shannon entropy is
  - The average minimum number of bits needed to represent a symbol

$$H_S = -(p_A \log_2(p_A) + p_B \log_2(p_B) + p_C \log_2(p_C) + p_D \log_2(p_D) + p_E \log_2(p_E))$$

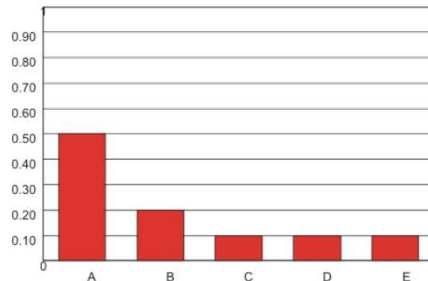
$$H_S = -(1 \cdot \log_2(1) + 0 \cdot \log_2(0) + 0 \cdot \log_2(0) + 0 \cdot \log_2(0) + 0 \cdot \log_2(0)) = -\log_2(1)$$

$$H_S = -5 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{5}\right) \cdot \log_2\left(\frac{1}{5}\right) = -(\log_2(1) - \log_2(5)) = \log_2(5)$$

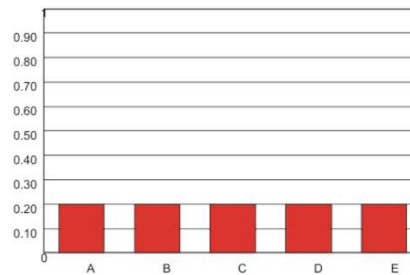
$$H_S = -\left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \log_2\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{5} \cdot \log_2\left(\frac{1}{5}\right) + 3 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{10}\right) \cdot \log_2\left(\frac{1}{10}\right)\right)$$



$H_S = 0$  bits  
0 questions



$H_S = 1.96$   
 $\approx 2$  questions



$H_S = 2.32$  bits

information is surprise

what it measures



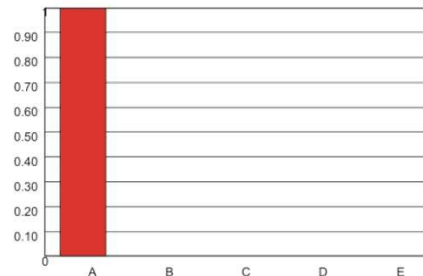
*uncertainty*, about outcome. How much information is gained when symbol is known

- **on average**, how many *yes-no* questions need to be asked to establish what the symbol is
- “structure” of uncertainty in situations

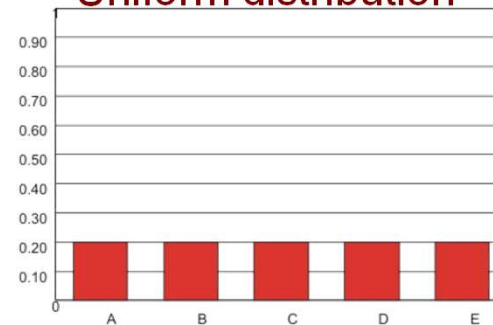
$$H_S \in = - \sum_{i=1}^n p(x_i) \log_2(p(x_i))$$

$$H_S \in [0, \log_2 |X|]$$

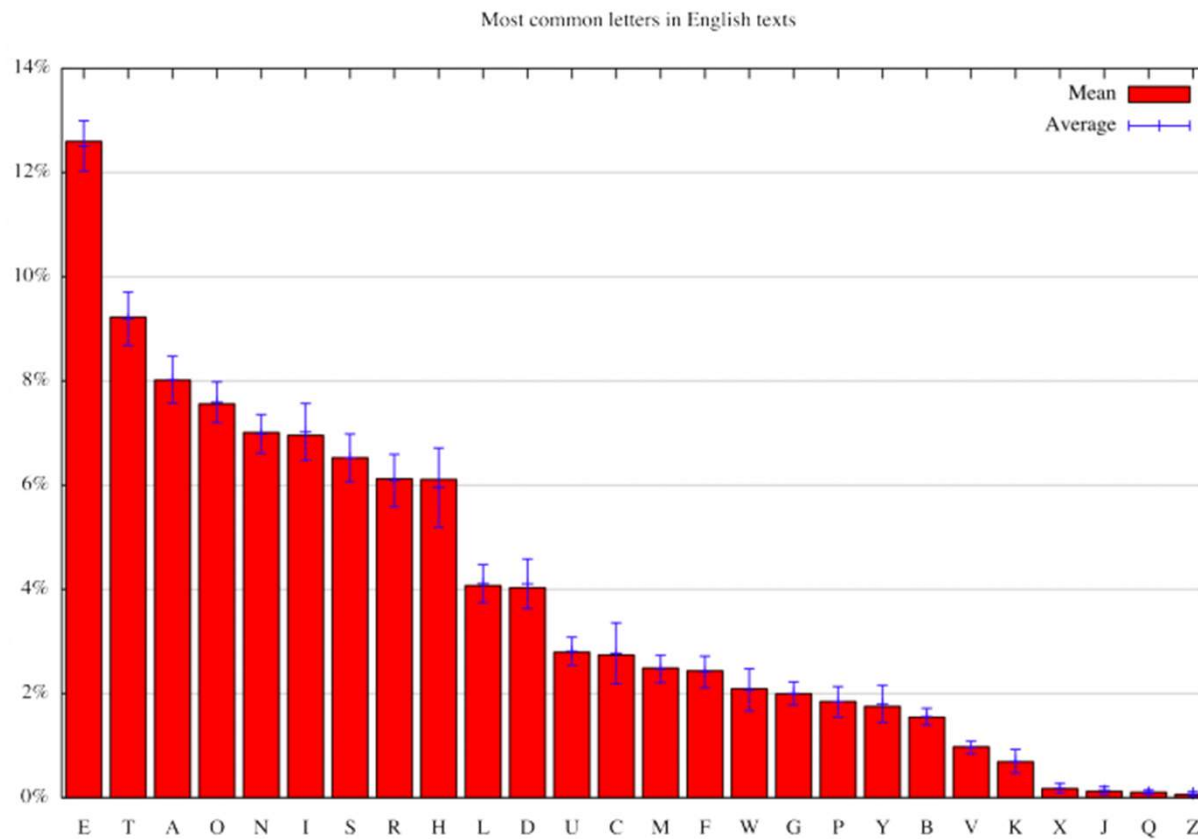
For one alternative



Uniform distribution



from letter frequency



[http://www.macfreak.nl/memory/Letter\\_Distribution](http://www.macfreak.nl/memory/Letter_Distribution)

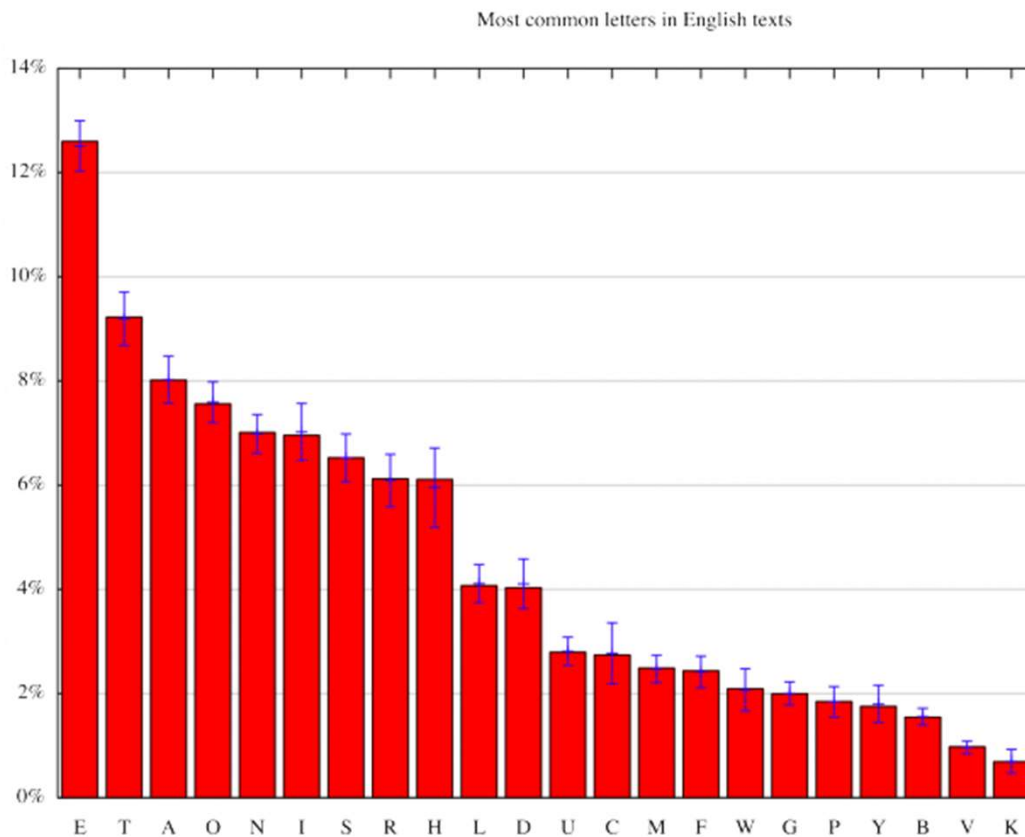


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# english entropy (rate)

from letter frequency

	$p(x)$	$\log_2(p(x))$	$-p(x) \cdot \log_2(p(x))$
e	0.124167	-3.0096463	0.373698752
t	0.096923	-3.3670246	0.326340439
a	0.082001	-3.6082129	0.295877429
i	0.076805	-3.7026522	0.284382943
n	0.076406	-3.7101797	0.283478135
o	0.07141	-3.8077402	0.271908822
s	0.070677	-3.8226195	0.270170512
r	0.066813	-3.903723	0.260820228
l	0.044831	-4.4793659	0.200813559
d	0.036371	-4.7810716	0.173891876
h	0.035039	-4.8349111	0.169408515
c	0.034439	-4.8598087	0.167367439
u	0.028777	-5.11894	0.147307736
m	0.028	-5.1690755	0.147094755
f	0.023	-5.4585429	0.1256220629
p	0.020517	-5.9211617	0.119205704
y	0.018918	-5.7240814	0.108289316
g	0.018119	-5.7863688	0.104842059
w	0.013523	-6.2084943	0.083954364
v	0.012457	-6.3269343	0.078812722
b	0.010658	-6.5519059	0.069830868
k	0.00393	-7.9911852	0.031406876
x	0.002198	-8.8294354	0.019409218
j	0.001998	-8.9669389	0.017919531
q	0.000933	-10.066609	0.009387113
z	0.000599	-10.705156	0.006412389
	<b>Entropy</b>		<b>4.14225193</b>



	$p(x)$	$\log_2(p(x))$	$-p(x) \cdot \log_2(p(x))$
Space	0.18288	-2.4509943	0.448249175
E	0.10267	-3.2839625	0.337152952
T	0.07517	-3.7336995	0.280662128
A	0.06532	-3.9362945	0.257125332
O	0.06160	-4.0210249	0.247678132
N	0.05712	-4.1298574	0.235897914
I	0.05668	-4.1409036	0.234724772
S	0.05317	-4.2332423	0.225081718
R	0.04988	-4.3254212	0.215748053
H	0.04979	-4.3281265	0.215478547
L	0.04483	-4.4793659	0.200815644
D	0.03637	-4.7810716	0.16811184
U	0.02878	-5.11894	0.124201198
C	0.02234	-5.4844363	0.122504535
M	0.02027	-5.6248177	0.113990747
F	0.01983	-5.6561227	0.112164711
W	0.01704	-5.8750208	0.100104113
G	0.01625	-5.9435013	0.096576215
P	0.01504	-6.0547406	0.091082933
Y	0.01428	-6.1301971	0.087518777
B	0.01259	-6.3117146	0.079456959
V	0.00796	-6.9728048	0.055511646
K	0.00561	-7.4778794	0.041948116
X	0.00141	-9.4709063	0.013346416
J	0.00098	-10.001987	0.009754119
Q	0.00084	-10.222907	0.008554069
Z	0.00051	-10.929184	0.005604998
	<b>Entropy</b>		<b>4.0849451</b>

[http://www.macfreak.nl/memory/Letter\\_Distribution](http://www.macfreak.nl/memory/Letter_Distribution)



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 cascibinghamton.edu/academics/ssie501

# entropy and meaning

- entropy quantifies information (surprise), but it does not consider information content
  - semantic aspects of information are irrelevant to the engineering problem in Shannon's conception

We were good, we were gold  
Kinda dream that can't be sold  
We were right 'til we weren't  
Built a home and watched it burn

Mm, I didn't wanna leave you  
I didn't wanna lie  
Started to cry, but then remembered I  
I can buy myself flowers  
Write my name in the sand  
Talk to myself for hours  
Say things you don't understand  
I can take myself dancing  
And I can hold my own hand  
Yeah, I can love me better than you can



$$H_S \in = - \sum_{i=1}^n p(x_i) \log_2(p(x_i))$$



wdeo eog geWl ewr e deorw  
aainhmta d rettoeKandl dsbc  
eeeier ntw hWttr ewrgliwe  
oriaeadatmht ndc lwn thuaBeuib

eanm dtal vewdi nl o unMay  
al indn nltawde i  
cl rettedtebrmSrb reemntuy da oth e  
uolrawe blnffmsyyic es  
niWe dty ne rsehmntiama  
arem Tll ssytrfu fkooh  
nyoh e gdodudtnaraustsi tnyoS  
atf lk emcnegyn snlicad a  
hmhydcndAwannoo n dl l a  
tlhl eatta nom Ybrueny h ee oaavn cce



entropy according to probabilistic model

0<sup>th</sup> order model: equiprobable symbols

$$H(A) = \log_2 |A|$$

Hartley Measure  
H(|27|) 4.7548875

XFOML RXKHRJFFJUJ ZLPWCFWKCYJ FFJEYVKCQSGXYD QPAAMKBZAACIBZLHJQD

1<sup>st</sup> order model: frequency of symbols

$$H_S(A) = -\sum_{i=1}^n p(x_i) \log_2(p(x_i))$$

H<sub>S</sub> = 4.08

OCRO HLI RGWR NMIELWIS EU LL NBNESBEYA TH EEI ALHENHTTPA OOBTTVA NAH BRL

2<sup>nd</sup> order model: frequency of digrams

Most common *digrams*: th, he, in, en, nt, re, er, an, ti, es, on, at, se, nd, or, ar, al, te, co, de, to, ra, et, ed, it, sa, em, ro.

ON IE ANTSOUTINYS ARE T INCTORE ST BE S DEAMY ACHIN D ILONASIVE TUCOOWE AT TEASONARE FUSO TIZIN ANDY TOBE SEACE CTISBE

3<sup>rd</sup> order model: frequency of trigrams

Most common *trigrams*: the, and, tha, ent, ing, ion, tio, for, nde, has, nce, edt, tis, oft, sth, men

IN NO IST LAT WHEY CRATICT FROURE BERS GROCID PONDENOME OF DEMONSTURES OF THE REPTAGIN IS REGOACTIONA OF CRE

4<sup>th</sup> order model: frequency of tetragrams

H<sub>S</sub> = 2.8

THE GENERATED JOB PROVIDUAL BETTER TRAND THE DISPLAYED CODE ABOVERY UPONDULTS WELL THE CODERST IN THESTICAL IT DO HOCK BOTHE MERG INSTATES CONS ERATION NEVER ANY OF PUBLE AND TO THEORY EVENTIAL CALLEGAND TO ELAST BENERATED IN WITH PIES AS IS WITH THE

including more structure  
reduces surprise

other measures to infer structure and organization in nature and society

### ■ Mutual Information

- Amount of information about one variable that can be gained (uncertainty reduced) by observing another variable

### ■ Information Gain (Kullback-Leibler Divergence)

- Difference between two probability distributions  $p$  and  $q$ ,
  - average number of bits per data point needed in order to represent  $q$  (model approximation) as it deviates from  $p$  ("true" or theoretical distribution)

### ■ Transfer Entropy

- transfer of information between two random processes in time
  - Amount of information (in bits) gained, or uncertainty lost, in knowing future values of  $Y$ , knowing the past values of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

$$I(X; Y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p(x_i, y_j) \log_2 \frac{p(x_i, y_j)}{p(x_i)p(y_j)}$$

$$IG(p(X), q(X)) = \sum_{i=1}^n p(x_i) \log_2 \frac{p(x_i)}{q(x_i)}$$

$$I(X; Y) = H(X) + H(Y) - H(X, Y)$$

$$T_{X \rightarrow Y} = H(Y_t | Y_{t-1:t-L}) - H(Y_t | Y_{t-1:t-L}, X_{t-1:t-L})$$



other measures to infer structure and organization in nature and society

- **Mutual Information**
  - Amount of information about one variable that can be gained (uncertainty reduced) by observing another variable
- **Information Gain (Kullback-Leibler Divergence)**
  - Amount of information gained by observing a variable in order to represent  $q$  (model approximation) as it differs from  $p$  and  $q$ .
  - Measure of uncertainty lost, in knowing future values of  $Y$ , knowing the past values of  $X$ .

**Optional Readings:** Golan, Amos, and John Harte. "Information theory: A foundation for complexity science." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **119**.33 (2022): e2119089119.

James, R., and Crutchfield, J. (2017). "Multivariate Dependence beyond Shannon Information". *Entropy*, **19**(10), 531.

$$I(X; Y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p(x_i, y_j) \log_2 \frac{p(x_i, y_j)}{p(x_i)p(y_j)}$$

$$IG(p(X), q(X)) = \sum_{i=1}^n p(x_i) \log_2 \frac{p(x_i)}{q(x_i)}$$

$$I(X; Y) = H(X) + H(Y) - H(X, Y)$$

$$T_{X \rightarrow Y} = H(Y_t | Y_{t-1:t-L}) - H(Y_t | Y_{t-1:t-L}, X_{t-1:t-L})$$

**Optional Reading:** Prokopenko, Mikhail, Fabio Boschetti, and Alex J. Ryan. "An information theoretic primer on complexity, self organization, and emergence." *Complexity* **15**.1 (2009): 11-28.

information as decrease in uncertainty .



$$H(A) = \log_2 |A|$$

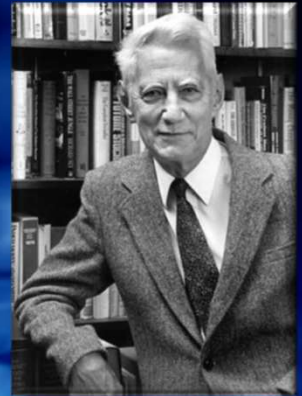
Measured in bits

Number of Choices

Hartley, R.V.L., "Transmission of Information", *Bell System Technical Journal*, July 1928, p.535.

including more structure  
reduces surprise

information is  
surprise



$$H_S(A) = - \sum_{i=1}^n p(x_i) \log_2(p(x_i))$$

Measured in bits

Probability of alternative

C. E. Shannon [1948], "A mathematical theory of communication". *Bell System Technical Journal*, **27**:379-423 and 623-656

rate of removing uncertainty of each symbol



Holdin' me back  
Gravity's holdin' me back  
I want you to hold out the palm of your hand  
Why don't we leave it at that?  
Nothin' to say  
When everything gets in the way  
Seems you cannot be replaced  
And I'm the one who will stay, oh

“syntactic” surprise But  
what about function and  
meaning (semantics)?

was  
was  
to

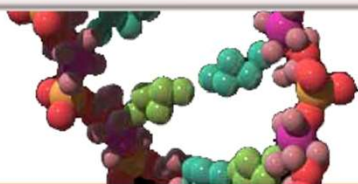
rate of removing uncertainty of each symbol



**Optional Readings:**

Prokopenko, Mikhail, Fabio Boschetti, and Alex J. Ryan. "[An information theoretic primer on complexity, self organization, and emergence.](#)" *Complexity* 15.1 (2009): 11-28.

James, R., and Crutchfield, J. (2017). "Multivariate Dependence beyond Shannon Information". *Entropy*, 19(10), 531.



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## readings

- **Class Book**

- Klir, G.J. [2001]. *Facets of systems science*. Springer.

- **Papers and other materials**

- **Discussion Set 1 (Group 1) – September 3rd or 5th**

- Kline, Ronald R [2015]. *The cybernetics moment, or, why we call our age the information age*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Chapters 1-2.
    - Heims, S.G. [1991]. *The Cybernetics Group*. MIT Press. Chapters: 1,2, 11, 12.
    - Optional: McCulloch, W. and W. Pitts [1943]. "A Logical Calculus of Ideas Immanent in Nervous Activity". *Bulletin of Mathematical Biophysics* **5**:115-133.
  - Gleick, J. [2011]. *The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood*. Random House. Chapter 8.
    - Optional: Prokopenko, Mikhail, Fabio Boschetti, and Alex J. Ryan. "An information theoretic primer on complexity, self-organization, and emergence." *Complexity* **15.1** (2009): 11-28.

- **Discussion Set 2 (Group 2)**

- Brenner, Sydney. [2012]. "History of Science. The Revolution in the Life Sciences". *Science* **338** (6113): 1427-8.
  - Brenner, Sydney. [2012]. "Turing centenary: Life's code script. *Nature* **482** (7386) (February 22): 461-461.
  - Cobb, Matthew. [2013]. "1953: When Genes Became 'Information'." *Cell* **153** (3): 503-506.
    - Optional: Searls, David B. [2010]. "The Roots of Bioinformatics". *PLoS Computational Biology* **6**(6): e1000809.
  - Weaver, W. [1948]. "Science and Complexity". *American Scientist*, **36**(4): 536-44. Also available in Klir, G.J. [2001]. *Facets of systems Science*. Springer, pp: 533-540.

