

**Definition 2.20** For random variables  $X$ ,  $Y$  and  $Z$ , the mutual information between  $X$  and  $Y$  conditioning on  $Z$  is defined as

$$I(X; Y|Z) = \sum_{x,y,z} p(x, y, z) \log \frac{p(x, y|z)}{p(x|z)p(y|z)} = E \log \frac{p(X, Y|Z)}{p(X|Z)p(Y|Z)}.$$

**Remark**  $I(X; Y|Z)$  is symmetrical in  $X$  and  $Y$ .

Similar to entropy, we have

$$I(X; Y|Z) = \sum_z p(z) I(X; Y|Z = z),$$

where

$$I(X; Y|Z = z) = \sum_{x,y} p(x, y|z) \log \frac{p(x, y|z)}{p(x|z)p(y|z)}.$$