



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Chapter 2

Information Measures

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In this chapter – basic tools

In this chapter – basic tools

- Probability preliminaries

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- Shannon's information measures

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- Other useful information measures

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- Shannon's information measures
- Other useful information measures
- Some useful identities and inequalities



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2.1 Independence and Markov Chain

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- Non-strictly positive distributions are dangerous – see Proposition 2.12 to be discussed later.

Definition 2.1 Two random variables X and Y are independent, denoted by $X \perp Y$, if

$$p(x, y) = p(x)p(y)$$

for all x and y (i.e., for all $(x, y) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$).

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Definition 2.2 (Mutual Independence) For $n \geq 3$, random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are mutually independent if

$$p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = p(x_1)p(x_2) \cdots p(x_n)$$

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Definition 2.3 (Pairwise Independence) For $n \geq 3$, random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are pairwise independent if X_i and X_j are independent for all $1 \leq i < j \leq n$.

Definition 2.4 (Conditional Independence) For random variables X, Y , and Z , X is independent of Z conditioning on Y , denoted by $X \perp Z|Y$, if

$$p(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} \frac{p(x, y)p(y, z)}{p(y)} & \text{if } p(y) > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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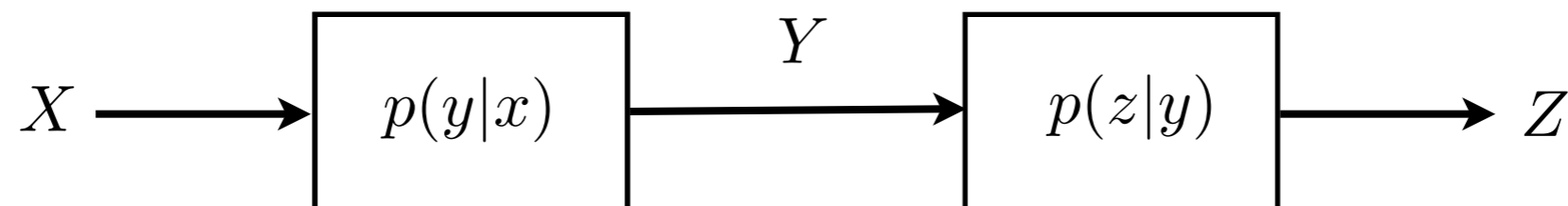
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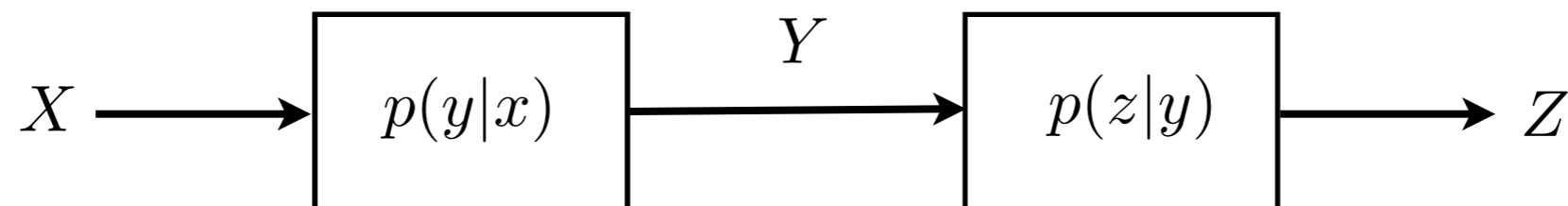
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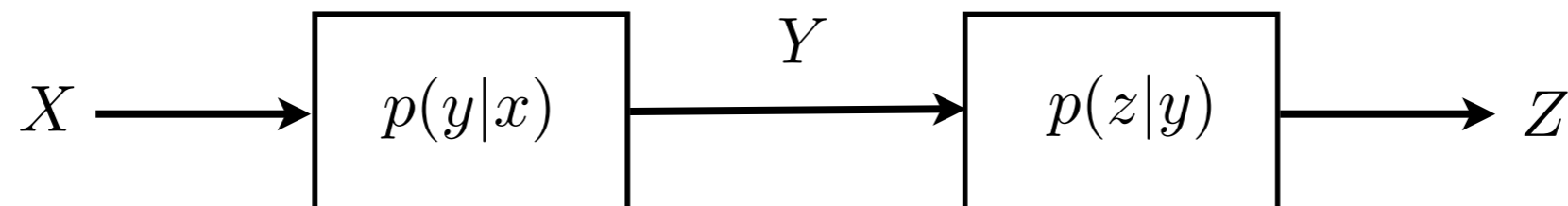
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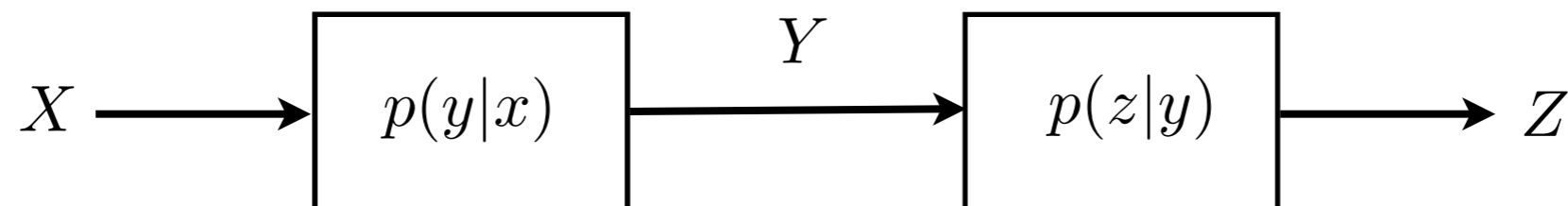
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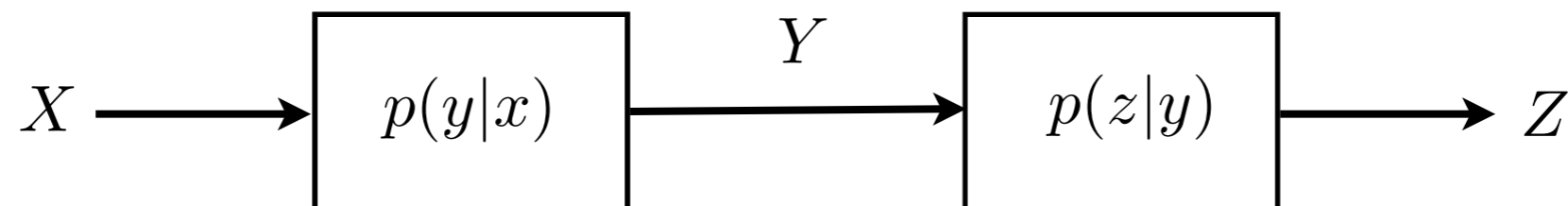
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$$p(x, y, z) = a(x, y)b(y, z)$$

for all x, y , and z such that $p(y) > 0$.

Proposition 2.5 For random variables X, Y , and Z ,
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6. For $x, y,$ and z such that $p(y) = 0,$ since

$$0 \leq p(x, y, z) \leq p(y) = 0,$$

we have

$$p(x, y, z) = 0.$$

Definition 2.4 $X \perp Z|Y$ if

$$p(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} \frac{p(x, y)p(y, z)}{p(y)} & \text{if } p(y) > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Proposition 2.5 For random variables $X, Y,$ and $Z,$
 $X \perp Z|Y$ if and only if

$$p(x, y, z) = a(x, y)b(y, z)$$

for all $x, y,$ and z such that $p(y) > 0.$

Proof

B. 'If'

Refer to Definition 2.4.

1. Assume

$$p(x, y, z) = a(x, y)b(y, z)$$

for all $x, y,$ and z such that $p(y) > 0.$

2. Then for such $x, y,$ and $z,$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} p(x, y) &= \sum_z p(x, y, z) \\ &= \sum_z a(x, y)b(y, z) \\ &= a(x, y) \sum_z b(y, z) \end{aligned}$$

3. Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} p(y, z) &= \sum_x p(x, y, z) \\ &= \sum_x a(x, y)b(y, z) \\ &= b(y, z) \sum_x a(x, y). \end{aligned}$$

4. Furthermore,

$$p(y) = \sum_z p(y, z) = \left(\sum_x a(x, y) \right) \left(\sum_z b(y, z) \right) > 0.$$

5. Therefore,

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7. Hence, $X \perp Z|Y$ according to Definition 2.4.

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Definition 2.6 (Markov Chain) For random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n , where $n \geq 3$, $X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_n$ forms a Markov chain if

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Proposition 2.7 $X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_n$ forms a Markov chain if and only if $X_n \rightarrow X_{n-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_1$ forms a Markov chain. (Exercise)

Proposition 2.8 $X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow X_n$ forms a Markov chain if and only if

$$X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \rightarrow X_3$$

$$(X_1, X_2) \rightarrow X_3 \rightarrow X_4$$

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Proposition 2.10 (Markov subchains) Let $\mathcal{N}_n = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and let $X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_n$ form a Markov chain. For any subset α of \mathcal{N}_n , denote $(X_i, i \in \alpha)$ by X_α . Then for any disjoint subsets $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m$ of \mathcal{N}_n such that

$$k_1 < k_2 < \dots < k_m$$

for all $k_j \in \alpha_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, m,$

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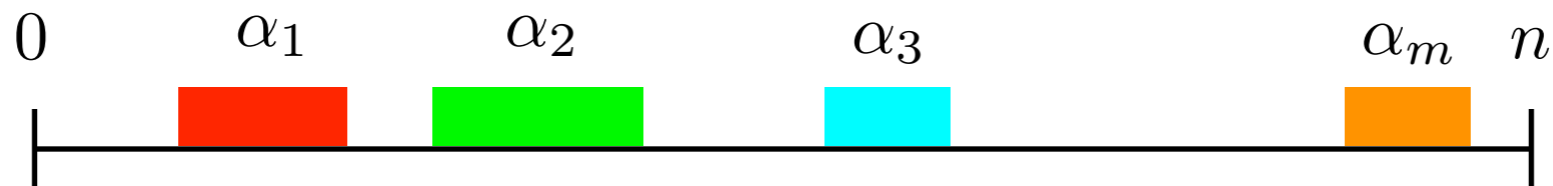
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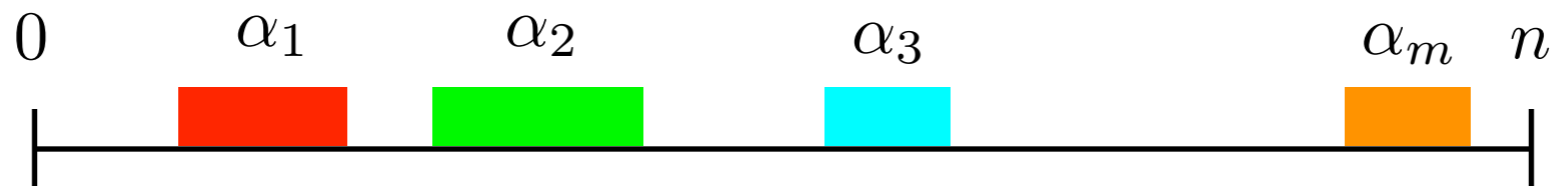
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Proposition 2.12 Let X_1, X_2, X_3 , and X_4 be random variables such that $p(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$ is strictly positive. Then

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$$\left. \begin{array}{l} X_1 \perp X_4 | (X_2, X_3) \\ X_1 \perp X_3 | (X_2, X_4) \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow X_1 \perp (X_3, X_4) | X_2.$$

- See textbook for a proof of the proposition.
- **Not true if p is not strictly positive!**
- Let $X_1 = Y$, $X_2 = Z$, and $X_3 = X_4 = (Y, Z)$, where $Y \perp Z$
- Then $X_1 \perp X_4 | (X_2, X_3)$, $X_1 \perp X_3 | (X_2, X_4)$, but $X_1 \not\perp (X_3, X_4) | X_2$.
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