



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

2.7 Some Useful Information Inequalities

Theorem 2.38 (Conditioning Does Not Increase Entropy)

$$H(Y|X) \leq H(Y)$$

with equality if and only if X and Y are independent.

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with equality if and only if $I(X; Y) = 0$, or X and Y are independent.

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- Similarly, $H(Y|X, Z) \leq H(Y|Z)$.
- **Warning:** $I(X; Y|Z) \leq I(X; Y)$ does not hold in general.

Theorem 2.39 (Independence Bound for Entropy)

$$H(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n H(X_i)$$

with equality if and only if $X_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ are mutually independent.

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Remark

Suppose Y is an observation of X . Then further processing of Y can only increase the uncertainty about X on the average.

Theorem 2.42 (Data Processing Theorem) If $U \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow V$ forms a Markov chain, then

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Theorem 2.42 (Data Processing Theorem) If $U \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow V$ forms a Markov chain, then

$$I(U; V) \leq I(X; Y).$$

Proof

1. Assume $U \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow V$. Then

$$U \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \quad (1)$$

and

$$\underline{U} \rightarrow \underline{Y} \rightarrow V. \quad (2)$$

2. From (1) and Lemma 2.41, we have

$$I(U; Y) \leq I(X; Y).$$

3. Similarly, from (2), we have

$$I(U; V) \leq I(\underline{U}; \underline{Y}).$$

Lemma 2.41 If $X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z$ forms a Markov chain, then

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4. Combining these two inequalities, we have

$$I(U; V) \leq I(U; Y) \leq I(X; Y).$$

5. The theorem is proved.

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