

8.3 The Rate-Distortion Theorem

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• The minimization is taken over the set of all transition matrices $p(\hat{x}|x)$ such that $Ed(X, \hat{X}) \leq D$, namely the set

$$\left\{ p(\hat{x}|x) : \sum_{x,\hat{x}} p(x) \, p(\hat{x}|x) \, d(x,\hat{x}) \le D \right\}.$$

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• Since this set is compact (closed and bounded) in $\Re^{|\mathcal{X}||\hat{\mathcal{X}}|}$ and $I(X;\hat{X})$ is a continuous functional of $p(\hat{x}|x)$, the minimum value of $I(X;\hat{X})$ can be attained.

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- Equivalently, the minimization can be taken over the set of all joint distributions $p(x, \hat{x})$ with marginal distribution p(x), the given source distribution, such that $Ed(X, \hat{X}) \leq D$.

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• Since

$$E\tilde{d}(X,\hat{X}) = Ed(X,\hat{X}) - \Delta,$$

where Δ does not depend on $p(\hat{x}|x)$, we can always replace d by \tilde{d} and D by $D - \Delta$ in the definition of $R_I(D)$ without changing the minimization problem.

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• Without loss of generality, we can assume d is normal.

Theorem 8.18 The following properties hold for the information rate-distortion function $R_I(D)$:

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3. Show that the inequality constraints in $R_I(D)$ can be replaced by an equality constraint by contradiction.

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Let $\hat{\mathcal{X}} = \{0, 1\}$ and d be the Hamming distortion measure.

Determination of $R_I(D)$

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Let $\hat{\mathcal{X}} = \{0, 1\}$ and d be the Hamming distortion measure.

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- By the rate-distortion theorem, if R > H(X), the average Hamming distortion, i.e., the error probability per symbol, can be made arbitrarily small.
- However, by the source coding theorem, if R > H(X), the message error probability can be made arbitrarily small, which is much stronger.