

# Shannon entropy

A series of messages  $\{\mathcal{M}_n\}$  ( $n = 1 \dots N$ ) will be transmitted over a telephone line. Each message occurs with probability  $P_n$ .

1. How much information,  $I_m$  is required to transmit message  $m$ ?
2. What is the average information per message?
3. Determine the information content of a message if all messages are equally probable (*i.e.*  $P_n = 1/N$ ).
4. If  $P_m > 1/N$  for some  $m$ , does the information content of  $m$  increase, or decrease? Why?
5. What is the probability of a pair of messages,  $m$  and  $n$ ?
6. What is the information content  $I_{mn}$  of that pair of messages?
7. Prove the identity  $I_m + I_n = I_{mn}$  and give an intuitive explanation of its meaning. Does that identity determine the functional form of  $I_m$ ?