

The discrete entropic uncertainty relation

Hans Maassen

Goodbye, Jos! July 15, 2011.

History

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Spring 1986.

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Dick Hoekzema,

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I would like to address this question today.

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- ▶ 3. When do we have equality?

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OUTPUT: Two probability distributions:

$$\pi_j := |\langle e_j, \psi \rangle|^2 ; \quad \hat{\pi}_k := |\langle \hat{e}_k, \psi \rangle|^2 .$$

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Definition

The **entropy** $H(\pi)$ of a discrete probability distribution $\pi = (\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_d)$ is defined as

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Theorem (1)

The sum of the two uncertainties satisfies:

$$H(\pi) + H(\hat{\pi}) \geq \log \frac{1}{c^2} .$$

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One outcome is certain, the other completely uncertain.

Rényi entropies

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Let $\pi = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_d)$ be a probability distribution. For $\alpha > 0$ let H_α denote the

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Theorem (2)

Let $\alpha, \hat{\alpha}$ be such that $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\hat{\alpha}} = 2$. Then

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Of course, taking $\alpha \rightarrow 1$ we obtain the ordinary entropic uncertainty relation.

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$$\psi_k := \langle \mathbf{e}_k, \psi \rangle ;$$

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then we may write

$$\hat{\psi}_j = \langle \hat{\mathbf{e}}_j, \psi \rangle = \sum_{k=1}^d \langle \hat{\mathbf{e}}_j, \mathbf{e}_k \rangle \langle \mathbf{e}_k, \psi \rangle = \sum_{k=1}^d u_{jk} \psi_k .$$

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So our raw data are now a unitary $d \times d$ matrix U and a unit vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^n$, and we have $\hat{\psi} = U\psi$.

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Theorem (Marcel Riesz 1928)

For $1 \leq p \leq 2 \leq \hat{p} \leq \infty$ with $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{\hat{p}} = 1$:

$$\left(c \sum_{j=1}^d |\hat{\psi}_j|^{\hat{p}} \right)^{1/\hat{p}} \leq \left(c \sum_{j=1}^d |\psi_j|^p \right)^{1/p} .$$

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More briefly this can be stated as follows:

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Equivalently:

$$\log \|\psi\|_p - \log \|\widehat{\psi}\|_{\widehat{p}} \geq \left(\frac{1}{\widehat{p}} - \frac{1}{p} \right) \log c .$$

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$$H_{\alpha}(\pi) + H_{\hat{\alpha}}(\hat{\pi}) = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \log \|\pi\|_{\alpha} + \frac{\hat{\alpha}}{1-\hat{\alpha}} \log \|\hat{\pi}\|_{\hat{\alpha}}$$

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Taking $\alpha \rightarrow 1$ we also obtain the ordinary entropic uncertainty relation. □

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$$\begin{aligned}H_{\alpha}(\pi) + H_{\hat{\alpha}}(\hat{\pi}) &= \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \log \|\pi\|_{\alpha} + \frac{\hat{\alpha}}{1-\hat{\alpha}} \log \|\hat{\pi}\|_{\hat{\alpha}} \\&= \frac{2\alpha}{1-\alpha} \log \left(\|\psi\|_{2\alpha} - \log \|\hat{\psi}\|_{2\hat{\alpha}} \right) \\&\geq \frac{2\alpha}{1-\alpha} \left(\frac{1}{2\hat{\alpha}} - \frac{1}{2\alpha} \right) \log c \\&= -2 \log c .\end{aligned}$$

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Theorem (Riesz-Thorin)

For all $d \times d$ -matrices T the function

$$[0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : \quad \left(\frac{1}{p}, \frac{1}{q} \right) \mapsto \log \|U\|_{p \rightarrow q}$$

is convex.

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Since $f_U\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \log \|U\|_{2 \rightarrow 2} = 0$ and $f_U(1) = \log \|U\|_{1 \rightarrow \infty} = \log c$, we conclude that

$$f' \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \leq \frac{f(1) - f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} \leq 2 \log c .$$

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$$\begin{aligned} F'(0) &= -\log c - \sum_{j=1}^d \log |\widehat{\psi}_j| \overline{\widehat{\psi}_j} (U\psi)_j - \sum_{k=1}^d \log |\psi_k| \overline{(U^* \widehat{\psi})_k} \psi_k \\ &= -\log c - \frac{1}{2} (H(|\widehat{\psi}|^2) + H(|\psi|^2)). \end{aligned}$$

The statement follows. □

Application: spotting equality

We can have $H(\pi) + H(\hat{\pi}) = \log(1/c^2)$, which means that $F'(0) = 0$, only if

$$F(z) = 1 \quad \text{everywhere on the strip!}$$

(This is Hopf's theorem.) From this we deduce:

Theorem

We have equality in the discrete entropic uncertainty relation if and only if ψ and $\hat{\psi}$ are supported by certain subsets D and \hat{D} of $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}$, on which we have:

$$|\psi_k|^2 = \frac{1}{\#D} ; \quad |\hat{\psi}_j|^2 = \frac{1}{\#\hat{D}} ; \quad c^2 = \frac{1}{\#D \cdot \#\hat{D}} .$$

*In particular: $\#D \cdot \#\hat{D} \leq d$: the supports are **very small!***

Examples of saturation

I Mutually unbiased bases: $c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}$. We can take $D = \{k\}$ and $\widehat{D} = \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$ or vice versa.

II Conjugate bases: $\langle \widehat{e}_j, e_k \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d} jk}$.

Suppose $d = n\widehat{n}$. Then we can also take the pure state vector

$$\psi_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \quad \text{if } k \text{ is divisible by } \widehat{n}; 0 \text{ otherwise;}$$

$$\widehat{\psi}_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\widehat{n}}} \quad \text{if } j \text{ is divisible by } n; 0 \text{ otherwise.}$$

III And many others! For example

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}; \quad \psi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad \widehat{\psi} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Proof of saturation theorem

Sufficiency: $H(\pi) + H(\widehat{\pi}) = \log(\#D) + \log(\#\widehat{D}) = \log(\#D \cdot \#\widehat{D}) = \log \frac{1}{c^2}$.

Necessity: $F'(0) = 0$ implies $F(z) = 1$ for all $z \in S$:

$$\sum_{j,k} \widehat{\psi}_j |\widehat{\psi}_j|^z u_{jk} \psi_k |\psi_k|^z = c^z.$$

In particular for $z = 1$:

$$\sum_{j,k} |\widehat{\psi}_j|^2 \cdot |\psi_k|^2 \cdot \underbrace{\left(e^{-i\widehat{\theta}_j} \cdot e^{i\theta_k} \cdot \frac{1}{c} u_{jk} \right)}_{=1!} = 1.$$

Let D, \widehat{D} denote the supports of ψ and $\widehat{\psi}$. Then we have for $j \in \widehat{D}, k \in D$:

$$u_{jk} = c \cdot e^{i(\widehat{\theta}_j - \theta_k)}.$$

Hence for $j \in \widehat{D}$:

$$\widehat{\psi}_j = \sum_{k \in D} u_{jk} \psi_k = c e^{i\widehat{\theta}_j} \sum_{k \in D} e^{-i\theta_k} \psi_k = c e^{i\widehat{\theta}_j} \sum_k |\psi_k|.$$

Proof of saturation theorem

We see that $|\widehat{\psi}_j| = c\|\psi\|_1$: the absolute value of $\widehat{\psi}$, (and also that of ψ) is **constant on its support**. By normalization it then follows that

$$|\psi_k|^2 = \frac{1}{\#D}, \quad |\widehat{\psi}_j|^2 = \frac{1}{\#\widehat{D}}.$$

And also:

$$\|\widehat{\psi}\|_1 = \#\widehat{D} \cdot c\|\psi\|_1 = \#\widehat{D} \cdot \#D \cdot c^2\|\widehat{\psi}\|_1,$$

and we conclude that $1/c^2 = \#D \cdot \#\widehat{D}$. □