COMPUTER SCIENCE TRIPOS Part II – 2023 – Paper 8

7 Information Theory (rkh23)

- (a) Describe the concepts of discrete entropy and mutual information and how they relate to each other. [4 marks]
- (b) How does your answer to part (a) change when the system is continuous rather than discrete? [2 marks]
- (c) How do entropy and mutual information relate to the capacity of a noisy channel? [3 marks]
- (d) Consider a noisy binary channel with input X and output Y. Under what circumstances is H(Y|X) independent of the distribution of X? [3 marks]
- (e) A noisy binary channel is modeled as shown in the diagram below:



The probability of a bit being flipped is f. The probability of a bit being erased is e. Derive the capacity of this channel and the probability distribution of the input bits that achieves it. [8 marks]

You may use the following equality without proof:

$$H(a, 1 - a - b) = -a \log_2(a) - (1 - a - b) \log_2(1 - a - b)$$

= $(1 - b) H\left(\frac{a}{1 - b}, 1 - \frac{a}{1 - b}\right) - (1 - b) \log_2(1 - b)$