

Information Technology

Inside and Outside

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IV. Data Compression

7. Compressing Information

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7. Compression Information

- ``How much space does it take to store this information?"
- Objectives:
 - a way to measure precisely the amount of information in a given message;
 - the fact that the amount of information in a given message may be expressed as a number of bits;
 - that most messages are longer than they need to be to convey the information they contain (in other words, that they contain redundancy);
 - that this redundancy can be removed, thereby shortening (compressing) the message;
 - that methods exist for systematically removing redundancy from data to compress the data for storage or transmission; and
 - examples of some practical data compression techniques.

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7.1 Introduction / 7.2 Why Can Information Be Compressed?

7.1 Introduction

- Techniques for *compressing* digital information.
- These techniques are essential in providing useful, fast, and practical applications of information technology.

7.2 Why Can Information Be Compressed?

- Rule 1) whenever ``information," → ``eep."
 - 2) and *eep* → extra *eep*,for example, ``eep_{ee}peep" → *eepeepeep* .
- Consider the benefits:
 - reduced every occurrence of the common four-syllable word, ``in-for-ma-tion", into a single syllable word, ``eep";
 - a simple scheme that we can use to still convey an ``eep" or even an ``eep_{ee}peep" when we really want to do so;
 - The penalty is that we need to add a syllable to every ``eep" utterance we make. But how often *eep* ?

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7.3 Messages, Data, and Information

- ❑ Efficient storage and transmission of information in the form of digital data comes about by removing **redundancy**.
- ❑ Redundancy
 - 1) some sequence of data bits that conveys the same message as another different sequence
 - briefer (less redundant) data representation
 - 2) a kind of redundancy that applies to the message itself

Figure 7.1: There is little information in a message that is expected.



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7.3 Messages, Data, and Information(2)

- ❑ **a priori knowledge** includes the fact that we have a high likelihood of receiving a certain known message.
- ❑ How do we find schemes in other cases where the redundancy in the message is less obvious?
- ❑ What if we don't know anything about the message beforehand? Can we still compress it?
- ❑ These answers are contained within a field of study known as **information theory**.
- ❑ Information theory is an area of mathematics that finds many applications in electrical and computer engineering.
- ❑ an amount of data that on average is **equal to the information content measure**
- ❑ the smallest number of bits that can be transmitted to still convey the original message content.

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7.4 Information Theory

- ❑ In July and October of 1948, a pair of papers were published by Claude E. Shannon of Bell Laboratories. This work created a new field at the intersection of mathematics and electrical communications theory, **information theory**, and forever shaped the means and mathematics of information transmission, compression, and coding.
 - Claude E. Shannon, A mathematical theory of communication, **Bell System Technical Journal**, Vol. 27, July, 1948, pages 379-423 and October, 1948, pages 623-656.
- ❑ The crux of information theory is the realization that the information content of a stream (that is, a sequence) of messages is connected directly with the probability of appearance of each possible message

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7.4 Information Theory(2)

7.4.1 A Little Probability

- ❑ a *probability of zero*
- ❑ a *probability of one* (or 100%)
- ❑ The probability that an event will occur takes on values anywhere **from zero to one**. The best way to understand the meaning of a statement such as ``**this event has a probability of 1/4, or 0.25, or 25%,**'' is to understand how one would determine this value of probability by observations of events.
- ❑ The determination of probabilities by observation is an exercise of an area of mathematics called **statistics**.
- ❑ an estimate of the probability of each of these events by a statistical calculation of what is called the *relative frequency* of each event. Relative frequency is simply the fraction of times that a specified event occurred, relative to the total number of trials of the experiment (in this case, coin tosses).

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7.4 Information Theory(3)

7.4.1 A Little Probability(2)

- ❑ *fair* coin.
- ❑ **Figure 7.2:** Statistics from past observations would have led us to believe there was no chance of seeing a llama leave the room.



- ❑ **Independent events:** Events are said to be *independent* if the occurrence of one has no influence on the occurrence of the other, and vice versa. For example, the probability that it will rain today is *not* independent of the probability of rain yesterday or tomorrow, because rainstorms often last two or three days and hence the events are linked.

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7.5 Probability -Based Coding

- ❑ Suppose we have a source of binary data--for example, a transaction at a point of sale POS terminal (electronic cash register) at a drugstore that notes and transmits the gender of each patron to a customer research database.
 - Numbers of male customers, N_m , and
 - Numbers of female customers, N_f .
 - the probabilities of a customer being male, P_m , and female, P_f , are both equal to 1/2.
 - using a 0 for each male patron and a 1 for each female patron.
 - How much information do we expect this stream of data to convey in the future? Shannon's theory showed that the average information content of a message stream, which is known as the *entropy* of the source of information, can be calculated.

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7.5 Probability-Based Coding(2)

- ❑ The mathematical symbol for **entropy** is H . The entropy H of a source of information is a measure of how much **information** is contained, on average, in each piece of data produced by the source.
- ❑ This information is measured, perhaps a bit confusingly, in units of bits. That is, the **entropy** of a source tells us how many **bits of information** are contained in each message
- ❑ **base-2 logarithm** function, $\log_2(x)$, the entropy of our source is given by the formula:

$$H = - [P_m \log_2(P_m) + P_f \log_2(P_f)]$$

$$H(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2 p_i$$

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7.5 Probability-Based Coding(3)

- ❑ For example, $H(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2 p_i$
 - s1=male $\rightarrow p_1 = 800/1000=0.8$
 $\rightarrow I(s_1) = \log_2(1/0.8) = \log_2 1.25 = 0.321$ bits
 - s2=female $\rightarrow p_2 = 200/1000=0.2$
 $\rightarrow I(s_2) = \log_2(1/0.2) = \log_2 5 = 2.322$ bits
 - $H(p) = 0.8 \log_2 1.25 + 0.2 \log_2 5 = 0.722$ bits
 \leftrightarrow “mean information in bits”
- ❑ The result says that on average the experiment involving determination of the gender of a new customer in this store provides us with 0.72 bits of information.
- ❑ The fact that this is less than 1 full bit indicates that there is redundancy in our data, which causes each result to be less informative than each drugstore result in which males and females were equally likely.

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7.5 Probability-Based Coding(4)

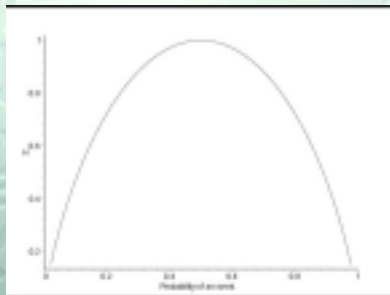
- ❑ For example, $H(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2 p_i$
 - s1 $\rightarrow p_1 = 0.5 \rightarrow I(s_1) = \log_2(1/0.5) = \log_2 2 = 1.0$ bits
 - s2 $\rightarrow p_2 = 0.3 \rightarrow I(s_2) = \log_2(1/0.3) = \log_2 3.3 = 1.7369$ bits
 - s3 $\rightarrow p_3 = 0.2 \rightarrow I(s_3) = \log_2(1/0.2) = \log_2 5 = 2.3219$ bits
 - s4 $\rightarrow p_4 = 0.1 \rightarrow I(s_4) = \log_2(1/0.1) = \log_2 10 = 3.3219$ bits
 - $H(p) = \frac{1}{2} \log_2 2 + \frac{1}{3} \log_2 3.3 + \frac{1}{5} \log_2 5 + \frac{1}{10} \log_2 10$
 $= 1.8176$ bits \leftrightarrow “mean information in bits”

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7.5 Probability-Based Coding(5)

Figure 7.3: The entropy of a binary event (an event with two possible outcomes) as a function of the probability of one of the outcomes.



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7.5 Probability-Based Coding(6)

- The probability of the next customer being male is still 80%, and the probability of a female customer is still 20%.
 - **Event A, Male-Male:** Because the probability of a male is 0.8, and the probability of independent events is the product of the pair of probabilities, we have that the probability of this event is **0.64**. We will **assign** the very short code of a **single 0 bit** to send the message in this case.
 - **Event B, Male-Female:** By similar reasoning to that in the previous case, the probability of this event is **0.16**, and we will **assign** it the **2-bit code 10**.
 - **Event C, Female-Male:** Again, the probability is **0.16**, and we will **assign** it the **3-bit code 110**. While it doesn't seem fair to make this a 3-bit code in light of the similar previous pair's encoding, we have no choice but to achieve a property known as **unique decodability**. More will be said on this point below.
 - **Event D: Female-Female:** This event has a probability of **0.04**. This rather infrequent event will have a **3-bit code also, 111**.
- In a complete derivation of the coding method at which we are hinting here, we would calculate entropies for each event and choose codes appropriately. Hence, the resulting coding method is called **entropy coding**.

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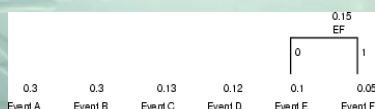
7.5 Probability-Based Coding(7)

- **Entropy coding** : The codes were assigned such that **the longest codes** were associated with **the most infrequent events** to the greatest extent possible, while maintaining unique decodability.

1) **Figure 7.4:** Preparing for **Huffman code** construction. List all events in descending order of probability.

0.3	0.3	0.13	0.12	0.1	0.05	← Probability of Event
Event A	Event B	Event C	Event D	Event E	Event F	← Event Name

2) **Figure 7.5:** Step one in Huffman code construction: pair the two events with lowest probabilities.



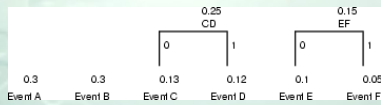
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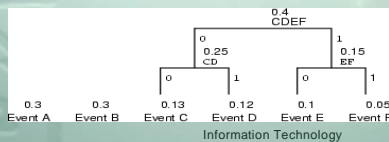
7.5 Probability-Based Coding(8)

□ Entropy coding : Huffman coding procedure (2)

3) Figure 7.6: Repeat for the pair with the next lowest probabilities.



4) Figure 7.7: Repeat again. Note that for this example, previous pairs are repaired.



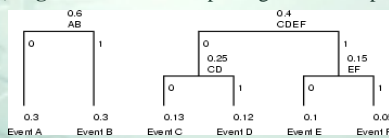
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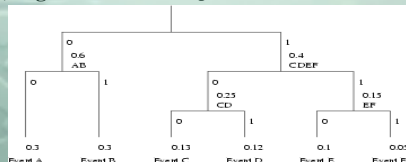
7.5 Probability-Based Coding(9)

□ Entropy coding : Huffman coding procedure (3)

5) Figure 7.8: Continue pairing the lowest-probability events.



6) Figure 7.9: The complete Huffman code tree.



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7.5 Probability-Based Coding(10)

□ Entropy coding : Huffman coding procedure (4)

□ The Huffman coding method is based on the construction of what is known as a **binary tree**. The path from the top or **root** of this tree to a particular event will determine the code group we associate with that event.

□ If we sum the products of the event probabilities and the code lengths for this case, we find that the average bit rate needed to represent these events is $2(0.3) + 2(0.3) + 3(0.13) + 3(0.12) + 3(0.1) + 3(0.05) = 2.4 \text{ bits/event}$

Event Name	Probability
A	0.30
B	0.30
C	0.13
D	0.12
E	0.10
F	0.05



Event Name	Probability	Code	Length
A	0.3	00	2
B	0.3	01	2
C	0.13	100	3
D	0.12	101	3
E	0.1	110	3
F	0.05	111	3

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7.6 Variable Length Coding

- Variable length coding (\leftrightarrow Fixed length codes)
- Morse code (\leftrightarrow ASCII code)

- For example, the letter **z** is represented by **a dash and two dots**, ``-..'', and the letter **e** is represented by **a single dot**, ``.`'. The fact that e requires fewer code symbols than the letter z is not an accident.
- The principle of entropy coding

Event Name	Code
Male-Male	0
Male-Female	10
Female-Male	110
Female-Female	111

➤ 1 1 0 / 0 / 1 1 1 / 1 0 / 0

- Variable length coding will only produce savings in total number of bits when **some events are much more likely to occur than others**

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7.7 Universal Coding

7.7.1 An Example of Universal Coding

- Lempel-Ziv universal coding

- compression of a string (an arbitrary sequence of bits) by always coding a series of zeroes and ones as some previous string (the ``prefix string'') plus one new bit
- data string: 1010110110101011**
- 1) The first bit, a 1, has no predecessors, so, it has a ``null'' prefix string (that is, the no-prefix prefix) and the one extra bit is itself: **1,0**10110110101011
- 2) The same goes for the 0 that follows because it can't be expressed in terms of the only existing prefix: **1,0,1**0110110101011
- 3) Now, the following 10 is obviously a combination of the 1 prefix and a 0: 1,0,**10**,110110101011
- 4) Continuing in this way we eventually parse the whole string as follows: 1,0,10,**11,01,101,010,1011**

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7.7 Universal Coding

7.7.1 An Example of Universal Coding(2)

- Lempel-Ziv universal coding (2)

- data string: 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 1
- (000,1), (000,0), (001,0), (001,1), (010,1), (011,1), (101,0), (110,1)
- coded version : 00010000001000110101011110101101

Ex) Lempel-Ziv Universal Coding
``the_other_one_is_the_oldest''

==>

the_o[1,3]r[4,2]n[3,2]is[4,1][1,5]ld
[3,1][16,1][1,1]

Application) Unix compress, MS -
DOS ARC utility text

Prefix	Code
null	000
1	001
0	010
10	011
11	100
01	101
101	110
010	111

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