







The Shannon entropy of a source X and the capacity of a noisy channel N both have simple mathematical expressions.

 $H(X) = -\Sigma_{X} p(x) \log p(x),$ 

where p(x) is the probability that the random variable X takes the value x.

$$C(N) = \max_{X} [H(X) + H(N(X)) - H(X,N(X))]$$

In other words, a channel's capacity is the maximum, over input distributions, of the Shannon *mutual information* between input and output.

Besides characterizing sources and channels, classical information theory aims to understand the role of auxiliary resources, such as *shared randomness* between sender and receiver, and free *back communication* (feedback) from receiver to sender.

Their role is simple: neither shared randomness nor back communication increases the capacity of a classical channel.

$$C_R = C_B = C$$

(However shared randomness, in the form of a one-time pad, makes it possible to communicate *secretly* over a public channel. Back communication, though it doesn't increase capacity, reduces encoding/decoding effort and latency.) Shared randomness is also useful in characterizing the ability of channels to simulate one another.

The classical *Reverse Shannon Theorem* states that in the presence of shared randomness the capacity of a channel *M* to simulate another channel *N* is simply the ratio of their plain capacities.

$$C_R(M,N) = C(M) / C(N)$$

More precisely, it establishes the ability of M, with shared randomness, to exactly simulate the input:output behavior of N on any block size, at an expected rate approaching C(M)/C(N) in the limit of large block size. (BSST quant-ph/0106052, Winter quant-ph/0208131)







Why don't shared randomness and feedback improve the capacity of a classical channel?

Shared randomness doesn't help because any encoder/ decoder pair trying to simulate a noiseless channel can be *derandomized*: If the encoder/decoder pair works when the shared information Ris chosen randomly, there must be a particular value R=r for which it also works. Picking this r and always using it gives a deterministic encoder/decoder that works at least as well as the randomized one.

Feedback doesn't help because of the reverse Shannon theorem. If feedback helped a noisy channel, it would help a noiseless one, which would violate causality. If I say n bits to you and by talking back you could learn more than n bits about what I intend to say, you could learn something by preemptively guessing.











## Does Free Stuff make the world better?

Robert Owen, Charles Fourier, Edward Bellamy: Free goods & services will make everything better.

*Fourier, Emma Goldman...Haight-Ashbury* **Free Love** will make everything better

*Timothy Leary, Ken Kesey:* **Free LSD** will make everything better

(Gutenberg, the Internet, LOCC) Free Classical Communication

(Aram Harrow, ITP2001 poster session) Will **Free Entanglement** change the world?

At least it simplifies the theory of quantum interactions & channels.













 $Q_E = C_E/2$  for all channels, by teleportation & superdense coding.





















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Kinds of Interaction
Unitary gate or Hamiltonian: U or e^{-iHt}
Nonunitary (interaction involves other,
inaccessible systems): nonlocal TPCP map
\mathcal{N} or d\rho/dt = \mathcal{L}[\rho]
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All nonlocal unitary interactions are *qualitatively* equivalent because they can produce entanglement and perform bidirectional classical communication. These resources are sufficient to perform any other nonlocal action, eg by teleportation.

But is there a single scalar measure of an interaction's "strength"? Or are some interactions better for some jobs and others for other jobs?

*Nonunitary* interactions (bilocal TPCP maps), are not even qualitatively equivalent: eg some can generate entanglement but not communicate, some can communicate but only classically, or only unidirectionally, and some, such as the Popescu-Rohrlich "Non-local boxes" cannot communicate in either direction and yet are a nontrivial resource in that they reduce communication complexity.







