

Fadeev's theorem on entropy

Notes by: Arthur Parzygnat

March 29, 2016

Abstract

In this expository note, we state and prove Fadeev's theorem on a set of axioms characterizing the entropy function on finite probability spaces based on Rényi's simplification [2]. We use the outline of the proof mentioned in [1]. There is absolutely nothing new here and is merely meant to make sure I understand the proof. The proof is elementary in the sense that it only use combinatorics, number theory, and a small amount of analysis.

Lemma 1. *Let $\phi : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function satisfying*

$$\phi(nm) = \phi(n) + \phi(m) \quad \forall n, m \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \quad (2)$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\phi(n+1) - \phi(n)) = 0. \quad (3)$$

Then there exists a constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\phi(n) = c \log_2 n \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+. \quad (4)$$

The following proof follows [2] very closely.

Proof. For every $N \in \{2, 3, 4, \dots\}$, define $g_N : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\mathbb{Z}^+ \ni n \mapsto g_N(n) := \phi(n) - \frac{\phi(N) \log_2(n)}{\log_2(N)}. \quad (5)$$

The idea of the proof will be to show that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g_N(n)}{\log_2(n)} = 0 \quad (6)$$

which shows that $\frac{\phi(N)}{\log_2(N)}$ is a constant, c , independent of N . Note that

$$g_N(N) = \phi(N) - \frac{\phi(N) \log_2(N)}{\log_2(N)} = 0, \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_N(nm) &= \phi(nm) - \frac{\phi(N) \log_2(nm)}{\log_2(N)} \\ &= \phi(n) + \phi(m) - \frac{\phi(N) (\log_2(n) + \log_2(m))}{\log_2(N)} \\ &= g_N(n) + g_N(m), \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(g_N(n+1) - g_N(n) \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\phi(n+1) - \phi(n) \right) + \frac{\phi(N)}{\log_2(N)} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\log_2 \left(\frac{n}{n-1} \right) \right) = 0. \quad (9)$$

Setting $G_N : \{-1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ to be the function defined by

$$G_N(k) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k = -1 \\ \max_{n \in [N^k, N^{k+1}) \cap \mathbb{Z}} |g_N(n)| & \text{if } k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

and

$$\delta_N(k) := \max_{n \in [N^k, N^{k+1}) \cap \mathbb{Z}} |g_N(n+1) - g_N(n)|, \quad (11)$$

(9) implies

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta_N(k) = 0. \quad (12)$$

For all $n \in [N^k, N^{k+1}) \cap \mathbb{Z}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|g_N(n)|}{\log_2(n)} &\leq \frac{G_N(k)}{\log_2(n)} && \text{by (10)} \\ &\leq \frac{G_N(k)}{k \log_2(N)} && \text{since } \log_2(N^k) \leq \log_2(n). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Hence,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|g_N(n)|}{\log_2(n)} \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{G_N(k)}{k \log_2(N)} = \frac{1}{\log_2(N)} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{G_N(k)}{k} \quad (14)$$

and thus to prove (6), it suffices to prove

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{G_N(k)}{k} = 0. \quad (15)$$

Now fix $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and let $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ be such that $N^k \leq n < N^{k+1}$. Then since

$$0 \leq n - N \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor < N, \quad (16)$$

where $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ denotes the floor function (the largest integer less than its input),

$$g_N(n) = g_N(n) + \sum_{l=N \lfloor \frac{n}{N} \rfloor}^{n-1} \overbrace{(g_N(l) - g_N(l))}^0 = g_N \left(N \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) + \sum_{l=N \lfloor \frac{n}{N} \rfloor}^{n-1} (g_N(l+1) - g_N(l)) \quad (17)$$

and so taking the absolute value gives

$$\begin{aligned} |g_N(n)| &\leq \left| g_N \left(N \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \right| + \sum_{l=N \lfloor \frac{n}{N} \rfloor}^{n-1} |g_N(l+1) - g_N(l)| \\ &\leq \left| g_N \left(N \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \right| + \left(n - 1 - N \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \delta_N(k) && \text{by def'n of } \delta_N(k) \text{ in (11)} \\ &\leq \left| g_N \left(N \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \right| + N \delta_N(k) && \text{by (16)}. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Using this and the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} g_N \left(N \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) &= g_N(N) + g_N \left(\left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \quad \text{by (8)} \\ &= g_N \left(\left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \quad \text{by (7)} \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

results in

$$|g_N(n)| - \left| g_N \left(\left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \right| \leq N\delta_N(k). \quad (20)$$

As n varies over $[N^k, N^{k+1}) \cap \mathbb{Z}$, $\left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor$ varies over $[N^{k-1}, N^k)$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} G_N(k) - G_N(k-1) &= \max_{n \in [N^k, N^{k+1}) \cap \mathbb{Z}} |g_N(n)| - \max_{n \in [N^k, N^{k+1}) \cap \mathbb{Z}} \left| g_N \left(\left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \right| \\ &\leq \max_{n \in [N^k, N^{k+1}) \cap \mathbb{Z}} \left(|g_N(n)| - \left| g_N \left(\left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \right| \right) \\ &\leq \max_{n \in [N^k, N^{k+1}) \cap \mathbb{Z}} N\delta_N(k) \quad \text{by (20)} \\ &= N\delta_N(k). \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Summing this last inequality over all $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ gives (for large m)

$$G_N(m) = G_N(m) - \overbrace{G_N(-1)}^0 = \sum_{k=0}^m \left(G_N(k) - G_N(k-1) \right) \leq N \sum_{k=0}^m \delta_N(k). \quad (22)$$

Dividing by m gives

$$\frac{G_N(m)}{m} \leq N \frac{\sum_{k=0}^m \delta_N(k)}{m}. \quad (23)$$

As $m \rightarrow \infty$, since $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta_N(k) = 0$, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists some m' so that $\delta_N(m) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{N}$ for all $m > m'$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{G_N(m)}{m} &\leq N \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{k=0}^m \delta_N(k)}{m} \\ &\leq N \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\sum_{k=0}^{m'} \delta_N(k)}{m} + \frac{\sum_{k=m'+1}^m \delta_N(k)}{m} \right) \\ &\leq N \sum_{k=0}^{m'} \delta_N(k) \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{m} \right) + N \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\left(\frac{m - m' - 1}{m} \right) \frac{\epsilon}{N} \right) \\ &\leq \epsilon. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Since ϵ can be chosen arbitrarily small, this proves (15). By the outline at the beginning of this proof, this shows that

$$\phi(N) = c \log_2(N) \quad \text{for all } N \in \{2, 3, \dots\}. \quad (25)$$

By the assumption (2), $\phi(1) = \phi(1) + \phi(1)$ which proves $\phi(1) = 0$. Hence,

$$\phi(n) = c \log_2(n) \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{Z}^+. \quad (26)$$

□

We take the following definition for classical entropy.

Definition 27. Let Δ^{n-1} denote the $(n-1)$ -simplex, i.e.

$$\Delta^{n-1} := \left\{ (p_1, \dots, p_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1 \text{ and } p_i \geq 0 \forall i = 1, \dots, n \right\}, \quad (28)$$

and

$$\Delta := \coprod_{n=1} \Delta^{n-1}, \quad (29)$$

the disjoint union of all n -simplices. An element of Δ^{n-1} is called a probability distribution on n events. For each $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, the function $H_n : \Delta^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$H_n(p_1, \dots, p_n) := - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2 p_i. \quad (30)$$

is called the entropy of the probability distribution $(p_1, \dots, p_n) \in \Delta^{n-1}$. The function

$$H := \coprod_{n=1} H_n, \quad (31)$$

defined by

$$H(p_1, \dots, p_n) := H_n(p_1, \dots, p_n), \quad (32)$$

is called the Shannon entropy function.

Remark 33. The symmetric group on n letters acts on each Δ^{n-1} as follows. Let $\sigma \in S_n$ be a permutation on n distinct elements. Then

$$\sigma \cdot (p_1, \dots, p_n) := (p_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, p_{\sigma(n)}). \quad (34)$$

Lemma 35. *The entropy function satisfies the following properties.*

(a) For each n , the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Delta^{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & \Delta^{n-1} \\ & \searrow H & \swarrow H \\ & \mathbb{R} & \end{array} \quad (36)$$

commutes for all $\sigma \in S_n$.

(b) The function $H_1 \equiv H|_{\Delta^1} : \Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous.

(c) $H(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) = 1$.

(d) For each $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$,

$$H(tp_1, (1-t)p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) = H(p_1, \dots, p_n) + p_1 H(t, 1-t) \quad (37)$$

for all $t \in [0, 1]$.

Proof. (a) follows from commutativity of addition. (b) follows from the fact that $x \ln x$ is continuous on $[0, 1]$ with the assumption that $0 \ln 0 = 0$. (c) follows from

$$2 \left(-\frac{1}{2} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \right) = \log_2 2 = 1. \quad (38)$$

(d) follows from

$$\begin{aligned} H(tp_1, (1-t)p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) &= -tp_1 \log_2(tp_1) - (1-t)p_1 \log_2((1-t)p_1) - \sum_{k=2}^n p_k \log_2 p_k \\ &= -tp_1 \log_2(t) - tp_1 \log_2(p_1) - (1-t)p_1 \log_2(1-t) \\ &\quad - (1-t)p_1 \log_2(p_1) - \sum_{k=2}^n p_k \log_2 p_k \\ &= p_1 H(t, 1-t) - p_1 \log_2(p_1) - \sum_{k=2}^n p_k \log_2 p_k \\ &= H(p_1, \dots, p_n) + p_1 H(t, 1-t). \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

□

Theorem 40. *Let $J : \Delta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be any function satisfying conditions (a)—(d) from Lemma 35 (with H replaced by J). Then $J = H$.*

Proof. We will prove this theorem in a series of steps which consist of (1) using J to construct a function $\phi : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and showing it satisfies the conditions of Lemma 1, (2) extending the results to rational numbers, and (3) extending them to real numbers.

Step 1. We follow the suggestion of [1] (which is probably due to Fadeev) and define $\phi : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\mathbb{Z}^+ \ni n \mapsto \phi(n) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ J|_{\Delta^{n-1}} \left(\frac{1}{n}, \dots, \frac{1}{n} \right) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (41)$$

We will prove the formula

$$\phi(nm) = \phi(n) + \phi(m) \quad (42)$$

by induction on n . The base case is for $n = 2$ and results in

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(2m) &= J|_{\Delta^{2m-1}} \left(\frac{1}{2m}, \dots, \frac{1}{2m} \right) \\ &= J|_{\Delta^{2m-1}} \left(\left[\frac{1}{2} \right] \left[\frac{1}{m} \right], \left[\frac{1}{2} \right] \left[\frac{1}{m} \right], \frac{1}{2m}, \dots, \frac{1}{2m} \right) \\ &\stackrel{(37)}{=} J|_{\Delta^{2m-2}} \left(\frac{1}{m}, \frac{1}{2m}, \dots, \frac{1}{2m} \right) + \frac{1}{m} J|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &\stackrel{(36)}{=} J|_{\Delta^{2m-2}} \left(\frac{1}{2m}, \dots, \frac{1}{2m}, \frac{1}{m} \right) + \frac{1}{m} J|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &\quad \vdots \quad \text{repeat } m-1 \text{ more times} \\ &= J|_{\Delta^{m-1}} \left(\frac{1}{m}, \dots, \frac{1}{m} \right) + \frac{m}{m} J|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &= \phi(m) + \phi(2). \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Assume that $\phi(km) = \phi(k) + \phi(m)$ for $k = 2, \dots, n-1$. Let

$$n = q_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots q_l^{\alpha_l} \quad (44)$$

be a prime factor decomposition of n with

$$q_1 < \cdots < q_l \quad (45)$$

and all $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(nm) &= J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-1}} \left(\frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm} \right) \\ &= J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-1}} \left(\left[\frac{1}{2} \right] \left[\frac{2}{nm} \right], \left[\frac{1}{2} \right] \left[\frac{2}{nm} \right], \frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm} \right) \\ &\stackrel{(37)}{=} J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-2}} \left(\frac{2}{nm}, \frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm} \right) + \frac{2}{nm} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &= J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-2}} \left(\left[\frac{2}{3} \right] \left[\frac{3}{nm} \right], \left[\frac{1}{3} \right] \left[\frac{3}{nm} \right], \frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm} \right) + \frac{2}{nm} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &\stackrel{(37)}{=} J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-3}} \left(\frac{3}{nm}, \frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm} \right) + \frac{3}{nm} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right) + \frac{2}{nm} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &\quad \vdots \quad \text{repeat } q_1 - 3 \text{ more times} \\ &= J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-q_1}} \left(\frac{q_1}{nm}, \underbrace{\frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm}}_{nm-q_1 \text{ terms}} \right) + \underbrace{\sum_{k=2}^{q_1} \frac{k}{nm} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right)}_{\chi} \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

Using (36), and then repeating this on the first term gives

$$\begin{aligned} J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-q_1}} \left(\frac{q_1}{nm}, \frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm} \right) &= J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-(q_1-1)-1}} \left(\frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm}, \frac{q_1}{nm} \right) \\ &= J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-2(q_1-1)-1}} \left(\underbrace{\frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm}}_{nm-2(q_1-1)-2 \text{ terms}}, \frac{q_1}{nm}, \frac{q_1}{nm} \right) + \chi \\ &\quad \vdots \quad \text{repeat } l-2 \text{ more times} \\ &= J \Big|_{\Delta^{nm-l(q_1-1)-1}} \left(\underbrace{\frac{1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{1}{nm}}_{nm-l(q_1-1)-l \text{ terms}}, \underbrace{\frac{q_1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{q_1}{nm}}_{l \text{ terms}} \right) + (l-1)\chi. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

This procedure terminates at $l = \frac{nm}{q_1}$ since $nm - \frac{nm}{q_1}(q_1-1) - \frac{nm}{q_1} = 0$ so that there are no more $\frac{1}{nm}$ terms and all the terms are of the form $\frac{q_1}{nm}$. Then $nm - \frac{nm}{q_1}(q_1-1) - 1 = \frac{nm}{q_1} - 1$ and we get

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(nm) &= \overbrace{J \Big|_{\Delta^{\frac{nm}{q_1}-1}} \left(\frac{q_1}{nm}, \dots, \frac{q_1}{nm} \right)}^{\phi\left(\frac{n}{q_1}m\right)} + \frac{nm}{q_1} \sum_{k=2}^{q_1} \frac{k}{nm} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) \\ &= \phi\left(\frac{n}{q_1}\right) + \phi(m) + \sum_{k=2}^{q_1} \frac{k}{q_1} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

by the induction hypothesis. Now, the leftover term becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{k=2}^{q_1} \frac{k}{q_1} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) &\stackrel{(36)}{=} \sum_{k=2}^{q_1} \frac{k}{q_1} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{1}{k}, \frac{k-1}{k} \right) \\
&\stackrel{(37)}{=} \sum_{k=2}^{q_1-1} \left[J \Big|_{\Delta^{q_1-k+1}} \left(\frac{1}{q_1}, \frac{k-1}{q_1}, \underbrace{\frac{1}{q_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{q_1}}_{q_1-k \text{ terms}} \right) - J \Big|_{\Delta^{q_1-k}} \left(\frac{k}{q_1}, \frac{1}{q_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{q_1} \right) \right] \\
&\quad + J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{1}{q_1}, \frac{q_1-1}{q_1} \right) \\
&\stackrel{(36)}{=} J \Big|_{\Delta^{q_1-1}} \left(\frac{1}{q_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{q_1} \right) \\
&= \phi(q_1)
\end{aligned} \tag{49}$$

since all the other terms cancel. In the second equality, we set $p_1 = \frac{k}{q_1}$ and $t = \frac{1}{k}$ and used (37). Therefore,

$$\phi(nm) = \phi \left(\frac{n}{q_1} \right) + \phi(m) + \phi(q_1) = \phi \left(\frac{n}{q_1} q_1 \right) + \phi(m) = \phi(n) + \phi(m) \tag{50}$$

again by the induction hypothesis. Next we prove

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\phi(n+1) - \phi(n) \right) = 0. \tag{51}$$

As a preliminary, we first prove that $J|_{\Delta^1}(0, 1) = 0$. This follows from the following calculation

$$\begin{aligned}
J|_{\Delta^1}(0, 1) &\stackrel{(37)}{=} J|_{\Delta^2}([t][0], [1-t][0], 1) + 0J|_{\Delta^1}(t, 1-t) \\
&\stackrel{(36)}{=} J|_{\Delta^2}(1, 0, 0) \\
&= J|_{\Delta^2}([1][1], [1-1][1], 0) \\
&\stackrel{(37)}{=} J|_{\Delta^1}(1, 0) + 1J|_{\Delta^1}(1, 0)
\end{aligned} \tag{52}$$

which by (36) gives

$$J|_{\Delta^1}(0, 1) = 2J|_{\Delta^1}(0, 1) \quad \Rightarrow \quad J|_{\Delta^1}(0, 1) = 0 \tag{53}$$

as needed. Now, to prove (51), we first rewrite the terms as

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi(n+1) - \phi(n) &\stackrel{(49)}{=} \sum_{k=2}^{n+1} \frac{k}{n+1} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) - \sum_{k=2}^n \frac{k}{n} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) \\
&= J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{n}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n+1} \right) - \frac{1}{n(n+1)} \sum_{k=2}^n k J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

using our earlier calculation. By condition (b) of Lemma 35, i.e. continuity of $J|_{\Delta^1}$, and the fact that $J|_{\Delta^1}(1, 0) = J|_{\Delta^1}(0, 1) = 0$, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an N_1 such that

$$\left| J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{n}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n+1} \right) \right| < \frac{\epsilon}{3} \quad \forall n > N_1. \tag{55}$$

Furthermore, there exists an $N > N_1$ such that

$$\frac{1}{n+1} \left| \sum_{k=2}^{N_1} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) \right| < \frac{\epsilon}{3} \quad \forall n > N \quad (56)$$

since the term in the absolute value is finite. Using these two bounds, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi(n+1) - \phi(n)| &= \left| J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{n}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n+1} \right) - \frac{1}{n(n+1)} \sum_{k=2}^n k J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) \right| \\ &\leq \left| J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{n}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n+1} \right) \right| + \frac{1}{n(n+1)} \left| \sum_{k=2}^{N_1} k J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) \right| \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{n(n+1)} \sum_{k=N_1+1}^n k \left| J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) \right| \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{3} + \left(\frac{N_1}{n} \right) \left(\frac{1}{n+1} \right) \left| \sum_{k=2}^{N_1} J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{k-1}{k}, \frac{1}{k} \right) \right| + \left(\frac{1}{n(n+1)} \right) \left(\frac{\epsilon}{3} \right) \left| \sum_{k=N_1+1}^n k \right| \quad (57) \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{3} + \left(\frac{N_1}{n} \right) \left(\frac{\epsilon}{3} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{n(n+1)} \right) \left(\frac{\epsilon}{3} \right) \left| \frac{n(n+1)}{2} - \frac{N_1(N_1+1)}{2} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{3} + \left(\frac{N_1}{n} \right) \left(\frac{\epsilon}{3} \right) + \frac{\epsilon}{6} + \left(\frac{N_1(N_1+1)}{n(n+1)} \right) \left(\frac{\epsilon}{6} \right) \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{3} + \frac{\epsilon}{3} + \frac{\epsilon}{6} + \frac{\epsilon}{6} \\ &= \epsilon \quad \forall n > N, \end{aligned}$$

which proves (51). Thus by Lemma 1, there exists a constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\phi(n) \equiv J \Big|_{\Delta^{n-1}} \left(\frac{1}{n}, \dots, \frac{1}{n} \right) = c \log_2(n) \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{Z}^+. \quad (58)$$

By condition (c) of Lemma 35, $c = 1$.

Step 2. We first explicitly calculate $J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{n-1}{n}, \frac{1}{n} \right)$ for n a positive integer greater than 2. Then, we calculate $J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{m}{n}, \frac{m-n}{n} \right)$ for $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ with $n > m > 2$. Finally, we calculate $J \Big|_{\Delta^{n-1}} \left(\frac{w_1}{z_1}, \dots, \frac{w_n}{z_n} \right)$ for $z_i > w_i > 2$ all integers for all $i = 1, \dots, n$. The first claim is

$$J \Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{n-1}{n}, \frac{1}{n} \right) = \phi(n) - \frac{n-1}{n} \phi(n-1). \quad (59)$$

The proof is done by induction. The base case of $n = 2$ is obvious. Assume the formula holds

for all integers up to n . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{n}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n+1}\right) &\stackrel{(37)}{=} J\Big|_{\Delta^2}\left(\left[\frac{1}{n}\right], \left[\frac{n}{n+1}\right], \left[1 - \frac{1}{n}\right], \left[\frac{n}{n+1}\right], \frac{1}{n+1}\right) \\
&\quad - \frac{n}{n+1} J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{1}{n}, 1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \\
&\stackrel{(36)}{=} J\Big|_{\Delta^2}\left(\frac{n-1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n+1}\right) - \frac{n}{n+1} J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{n-1}{n}, \frac{1}{n}\right) \\
&\quad \vdots \quad \text{repeat } n-2 \text{ more times} \\
&= \phi(n+1) - \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{n+1-k}{n+1} J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{n-k}{n+1-k}, \frac{1}{n+1-k}\right) \\
&= \phi(n+1) - \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{n+1-k}{n+1} \left(\phi(n+1-k) - \frac{n-k}{n+1-k} \phi(n-k)\right) \\
&= \phi(n+1) + \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left((n-k)\phi(n-k) - (n+1-k)\phi(n+1-k)\right) \\
&= \phi(n+1) - \frac{n}{n+1} \phi(n),
\end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

where we have used the induction hypothesis in the fourth equality. Note that in the last equality all terms but the $k=1$ term on the right cancel. We next prove the formula

$$J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m}{n}, \frac{n-m}{n}\right) = \phi(n) - \frac{m}{n} \phi(m) - \frac{n-m}{n} \phi(n-m) \tag{61}$$

for integers $n > m > 2$. First, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m}{n}, \frac{n-m}{n}\right) &\stackrel{(37)}{=} J\Big|_{\Delta^2}\left(\left[\frac{1}{m}\right], \left[\frac{m}{n}\right], \left[\frac{m-1}{m}\right], \left[\frac{m}{n}\right], \frac{n-m}{n}\right) - \frac{m}{n} J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{1}{m}, \frac{m-1}{m}\right) \\
&\stackrel{(36)}{=} J\Big|_{\Delta^2}\left(\left[\frac{m-1}{n-1}\right], \left[\frac{n-1}{n}\right], \left[\frac{n-m}{n-1}\right], \left[\frac{n-1}{n}\right], \frac{1}{n}\right) - \frac{m}{n} J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-1}{m}, \frac{1}{m}\right) \\
&\stackrel{(37)}{=} J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{n-1}{n}, \frac{1}{n}\right) - \frac{m}{n} J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-1}{m}, \frac{1}{m}\right) + \frac{n-1}{n} J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-1}{n-1}, \frac{n-m}{n-1}\right)
\end{aligned} \tag{62}$$

This gives a recursion relation so that we can repeat until the term on the right-hand-side

terminates, which happens after m iterations. Doing this, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m}{n}, \frac{n-m}{n}\right) &= J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{n-1}{n}, \frac{1}{n}\right) - \frac{m}{n}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-1}{m}, \frac{1}{m}\right) \\
&\quad + \frac{n-1}{n}\left(J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{n-2}{n-1}, \frac{1}{n-1}\right) - \frac{m-1}{n-1}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-2}{m-1}, \frac{1}{m-1}\right)\right) \\
&\quad + \frac{n-1}{n}\left(\frac{n-2}{n-1}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-2}{n-2}, \frac{n-m}{n-2}\right)\right) \\
&= \frac{n-0}{n}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{n-1}{n}, \frac{1}{n}\right) + \frac{n-1}{n}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{n-2}{n-1}, \frac{1}{n-1}\right) \\
&\quad - \frac{m}{n}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-1}{m}, \frac{1}{m}\right) - \frac{m-1}{n}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-2}{m-1}, \frac{1}{m-1}\right) \\
&\quad + \frac{n-2}{n}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-2}{n-2}, \frac{n-m}{n-2}\right) \\
&\quad \vdots \quad \text{repeat } m-3 \text{ more times} \\
&= \sum_{k=0}^{m-1}\left(\frac{n-k}{n}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{n-1-k}{n-k}, \frac{1}{n-k}\right) - \frac{m-k}{n}J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m-1-k}{m-k}, \frac{1}{m-k}\right)\right) \\
&\stackrel{(59)}{=} \frac{1}{n}\sum_{k=0}^{m-1}\left((n-k)\phi(n-k) - (n-1-k)\phi(n-1-k)\right) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{n}\sum_{k=0}^{m-1}\left((m-1-k)\phi(m-1-k) - (m-k)\phi(m-k)\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{n}\left(n\phi(n) - (n-m)\phi(n-m) - m\phi(m) + 0\right) \\
&= \phi(n) - \frac{m}{n}\phi(m) - \frac{n-m}{n}\phi(n-m),
\end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

which is the formula we tried to prove. Note that by Step 1, this says

$$\begin{aligned}
J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m}{n}, \frac{n-m}{n}\right) &= \log_2 n - \frac{m}{n}\log_2 m - \frac{n-m}{n}\log_2(n-m) \\
&= -\frac{m}{n}\log_2\left(\frac{m}{n}\right) - \frac{n-m}{n}\log_2\left(\frac{n-m}{n}\right)
\end{aligned} \tag{64}$$

so we see that it is convenient to write this as

$$J\Big|_{\Delta^1}\left(\frac{m}{n}, \frac{n-m}{n}\right) = \frac{m}{n}\left(\phi(n) - \phi(m)\right) + \frac{n-m}{n}\left(\phi(n) - \phi(n-m)\right). \tag{65}$$

Finally, for the rational points of an arbitrary $(n-1)$ -simplex, we will prove the formula

$$J\Big|_{\Delta^{n-1}}\left(\frac{w_1}{z_1}, \dots, \frac{w_n}{z_n}\right) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{w_k}{z_k}\left(\phi(z_k) - \phi(w_k)\right) \tag{66}$$

by induction. This formula holds for the base case $n=2$ by our previous result. We assume it

is true for n (for all rational probability measures) and show it holds for $n + 1$. We get

$$\begin{aligned}
J\Big|_{\Delta^n} \left(\frac{w_1}{z_1}, \dots, \frac{w_{n+1}}{z_{n+1}} \right) &= J\Big|_{\Delta^n} \left(\frac{\frac{w_1}{z_1}}{\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2}} \left[\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2} \right], \frac{\frac{w_2}{z_2}}{\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2}} \left[\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2} \right], \frac{w_3}{z_3}, \dots, \frac{w_{n+1}}{z_{n+1}} \right) \\
&\stackrel{(37)}{=} J\Big|_{\Delta^{n-1}} \left(\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2}, \frac{w_3}{z_3}, \dots, \frac{w_{n+1}}{z_{n+1}} \right) + \left(\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2} \right) J\Big|_{\Delta^1} \left(\frac{\frac{w_1}{z_1}}{\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2}}, \frac{\frac{w_2}{z_2}}{\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2}} \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2} \right) \left(\phi(z_1 z_2) - \phi(w_1 z_2 + w_2 z_1) \right) + \sum_{k=3}^{n+1} \frac{w_k}{z_k} \left(\phi(z_k) - \phi(w_k) \right) \\
&+ \left(\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2} \right) \left(\frac{\frac{w_1}{z_1}}{\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2}} \left(\phi(w_1 z_2 + w_2 z_1) - \phi(w_1 z_2) \right) + \frac{\frac{w_2}{z_2}}{\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2}} \left(\phi(w_1 z_2 + w_2 z_1) - \phi(w_2 z_1) \right) \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{w_1}{z_1} + \frac{w_2}{z_2} \right) \left(\phi(z_1) + \phi(z_2) - \phi(w_1 z_2 + w_2 z_1) \right) + \frac{w_1}{z_1} \left(\phi(w_1 z_2 + w_2 z_1) - \phi(w_1) - \phi(z_2) \right) \\
&+ \frac{w_2}{z_2} \left(\phi(w_1 z_2 + w_2 z_1) - \phi(w_2) - \phi(z_1) \right) + \sum_{k=3}^{n+1} \frac{w_k}{z_k} \left(\phi(z_k) - \phi(w_k) \right) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \frac{w_k}{z_k} \left(\phi(z_k) - \phi(w_k) \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{67}$$

which concludes the proof of the formula for the function for arbitrary rational points.

Step 3. Since

$$J\Big|_{\Delta^{n-1}} \left(\frac{w_1}{z_1}, \dots, \frac{w_n}{z_n} \right) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{w_k}{z_k} \left(\phi(z_k) - \phi(w_k) \right) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{w_k}{z_k} \log_2 \left(\frac{z_k}{w_k} \right) \tag{68}$$

can be written in terms of a finite sum of $J\Big|_{\Delta^1}$ terms thanks to the earlier calculation (49), by continuity, the function is uniquely extended to arbitrary points of the $(n - 1)$ -simplices since the rationals are dense in the reals. Thus,

$$J\Big|_{\Delta^{n-1}} (p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{p_i} \right) = - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2 p_i \tag{69}$$

for all $(p_1, \dots, p_n) \in \Delta^{n-1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ greater than 1. \square

Remark 70. If condition (c) in the statement of theorem 40 does not hold but is instead replaced by the condition that $0 \leq J(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) < \infty$, then

$$J = J \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right) H. \tag{71}$$

This follows from the proof by just modifying the argument at the end of Step 1.

References

- [1] John C. Baez, Tobias Fritz, and Tom Leinster, *A Characterization of Entropy in Terms of Information Loss*, Entropy **13** (2011), 1945–1957. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1106.1791>.
- [2] Alfréd Rényi, *On Measures of Entropy and Information*, Proc. Fourth Berkeley Symp. on Math. Statist. and Prob. **1** (1961), 547–561.