

[tex47] **Statistical concept of uncertainty**

An experiment has  $n$  possible outcomes that occur with probabilities  $P_1, \dots, P_n$ . The uncertainty about the outcome of the experiment is defined as

$$\Sigma(P_1, \dots, P_n) = - \sum_{i=1}^n P_i \ln P_i.$$

- (a) Prove that the maximum uncertainty occurs if all  $P_i$  are equal.  
(b) The  $n^2$  combined outcomes of two independent experiments have probabilities  $P_{ij} = P_i^I P_j^{II}$ . Show that the uncertainty about the combined outcome of the two independent experiments is equal to the sum of the uncertainties of the outcomes of each experiment:  $\Sigma(\{P_{ij}\}) = \Sigma(\{P_i^I\}) + \Sigma(\{P_j^{II}\})$ .

**Solution:**