

Generalized Fibonacci coding problem using MERW and ANS

for general constraints, multidimensional case

My original 2006 [MSc](#) problem:

how to ~optimally store information in

2D lattice $\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ with no adjacent ($\leftrightarrow$) '1's ?

[hard square](#)/2D Fibonacci ([Markov field](#))

[Maximal entropy random walk](#) (MERW)

chosen according to [maximal entropy principle](#)

to **find optimal transition probabilities**

now ~200 citations of [our 2009 PRL paper](#)

[Asymmetric numeral systems](#) (ANS)

optimized for any prob. distribution of digits

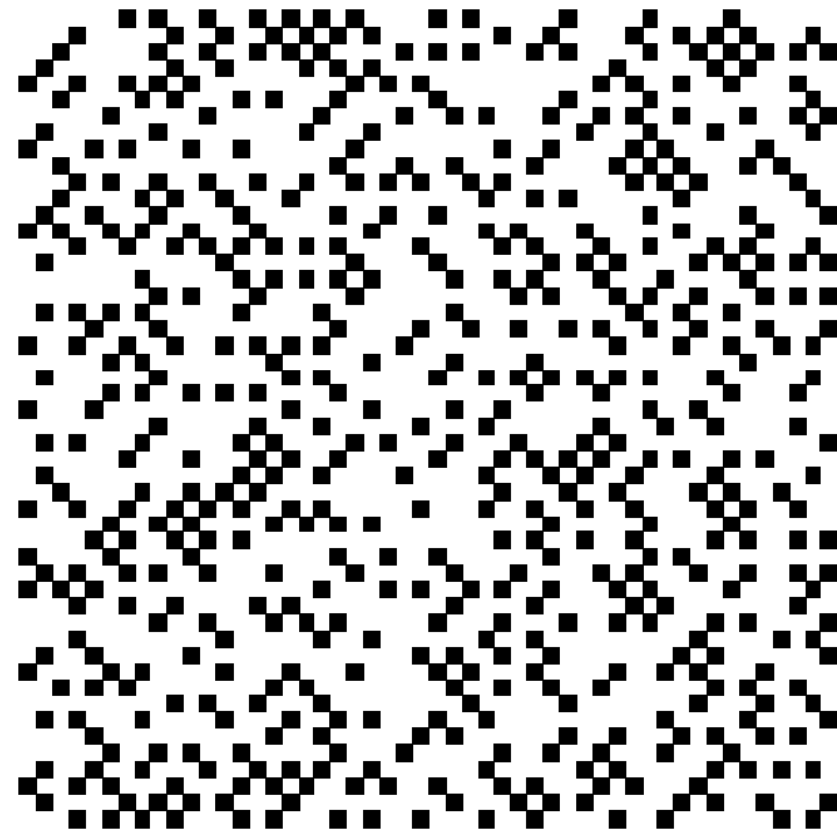
to **encode using these found probabilities**

now widely used in data compressors ([links](#))

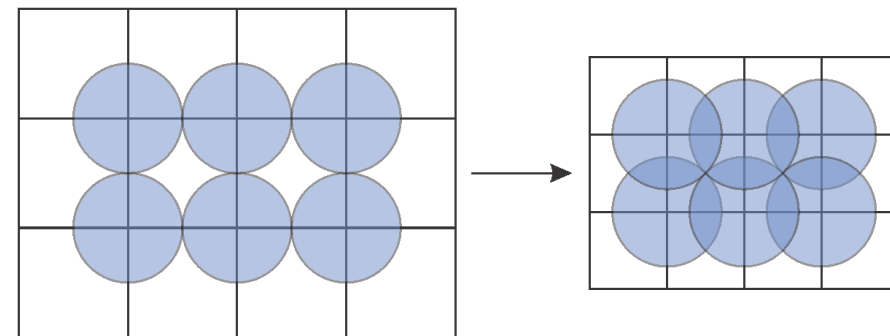
replacing Huffman and arithmetic coding

by e.g. Apple, Facebook, Google, Linux, JPEG XL

[Jarek Duda](#), 21.06.2021



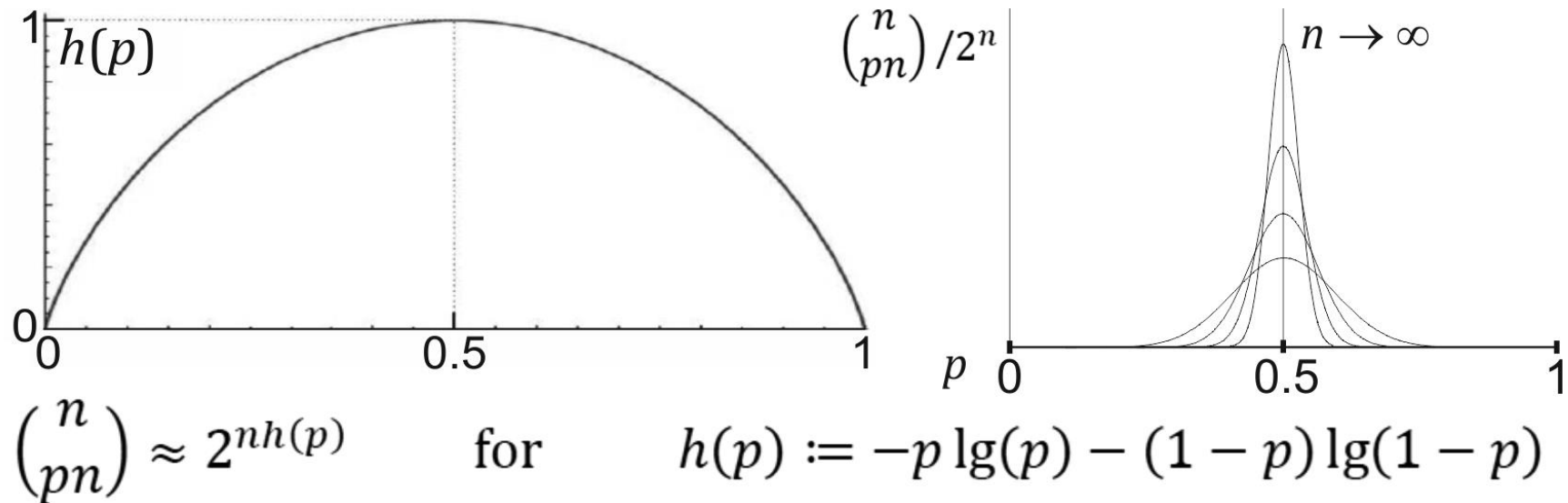
e.g. to improve capacity of hard disk:



1 bit/node $\rightarrow 2 \cdot \underline{0.58789} \approx 1.176$

We need n bits of information to choose one of 2^n possibilities.

For length n 0/1 sequences with pn of “1”, how many bits we need to choose one?



A sequence of symbols with $(p_s)_{s=0..m-1}$ probability distribution contains asymptotically **$H = \sum_s p_s \lg(1/p_s)$ bits/symbol** ($H \leq \lg(m)$)

Seen as weighted average:

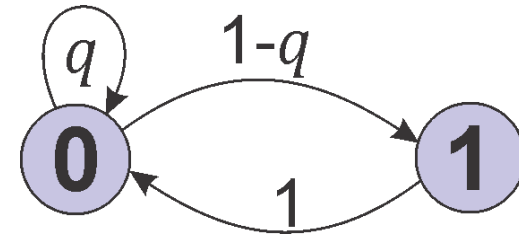
symbol/event of probability p contains $\lg(1/p)$ bits of information

(Jaynes) **principle of maximum entropy**: while limited knowledge, the best assumption is probability distribution which maximizes entropy.

Fibonacci coding – as a bit sequence with **constraints**: no two neighboring '1's
 e.g. 0010101000010101001001 – **each sequence should be equally probable**

What about local statistics: of a single step?

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} q & 1-q \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad q = ?$$



What q should we choose to maximize informational capacity?

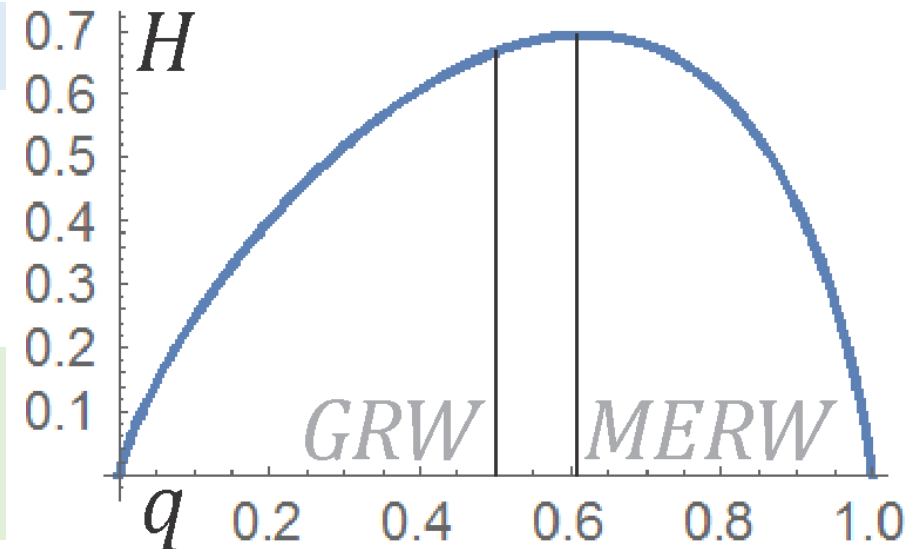
Stationary probability: $\pi = (\text{Pr}(0), \text{Pr}(1))^T$

$$\pi S = \pi$$

$$\pi = \left(\frac{1}{2-q}, 1 - \frac{1}{2-q} \right)$$

Entropy – informational content:

$$H = \sum_i \pi_i \sum_j S_{ij} \lg(1/S_{ij}) = \pi_0 \cdot h(q)$$



$$H_{max} \approx 0.694241913 \text{ bits/node}$$

for $q = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \approx 0.618034$ for MERW

$$(H = 0.6666... \text{ for GRW})$$

$$(q = 0.5 \text{ for GRW})$$

Graph (M)  stochastic matrix (S)

$$M_{ab} \in \{0,1\}$$

$$0 \leq S_{ab} \leq M_{ab} , \forall_a \sum_b S_{ab} = 1$$



stationary probability (π)

$$\sum_a \pi_a S_{ab} = \pi_b$$

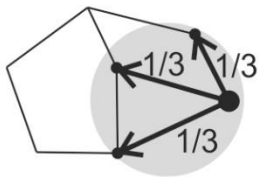
Average **entropy** production (rate) per step: $\sum_a \pi_a \sum_b S_{ab} \lg(1/S_{ab})$

GRW and MERW are equal on regular graphs, but e.g. on **defected 2D lattice**:

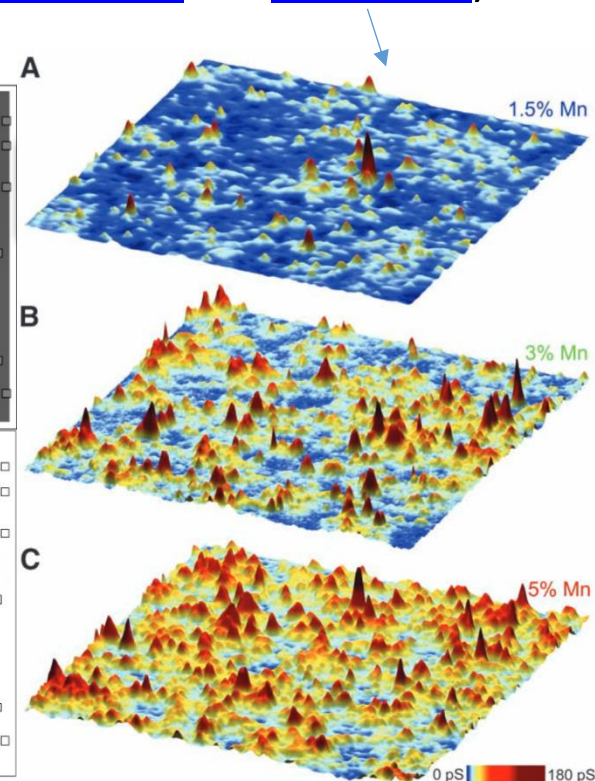
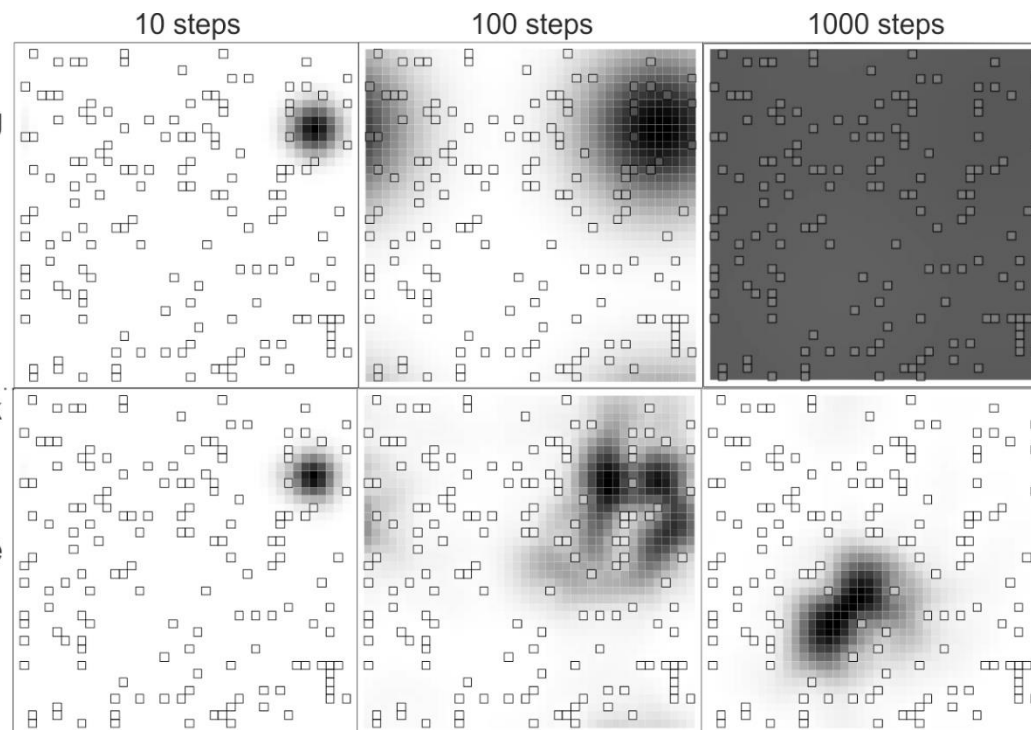
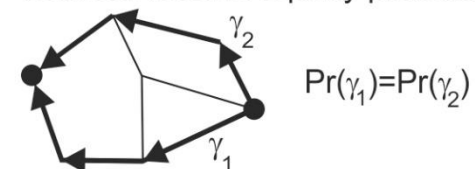
MERW – uniform sequence/path ensemble

([Anderson localization](#) for [electrons](#))

Generic Random Walk (GRW):
assume uniform distribution among
“the nearest neighbors”



Maximal Entropy Random Walk (MERW): choose that
for each two vertices,
each path of given length
between them is equally probable



GRW assumes we know exactly the used probabilistic algorithm,

has characteristic length

MERW assumes only there are no hidden local probabilistic rules,

is scale-free limit of GRW

MERW – uniform probability distribution among **paths**

GRW – all **length 1** paths equally probable, **MERW** – all **length $t \rightarrow \infty$**

Assume **unique dominant eigenvalue** (Frobenius-Perron for connected aperiodic)

$$M\psi = \lambda\psi \quad \text{for largest } \lambda$$

$$\text{Hubbard: } \mathcal{H} = -\sum_{\text{edge } xy} a_y^\dagger a_x \equiv -M$$

$$M^t \approx \lambda^t |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| \quad \text{for } t \rightarrow \infty$$

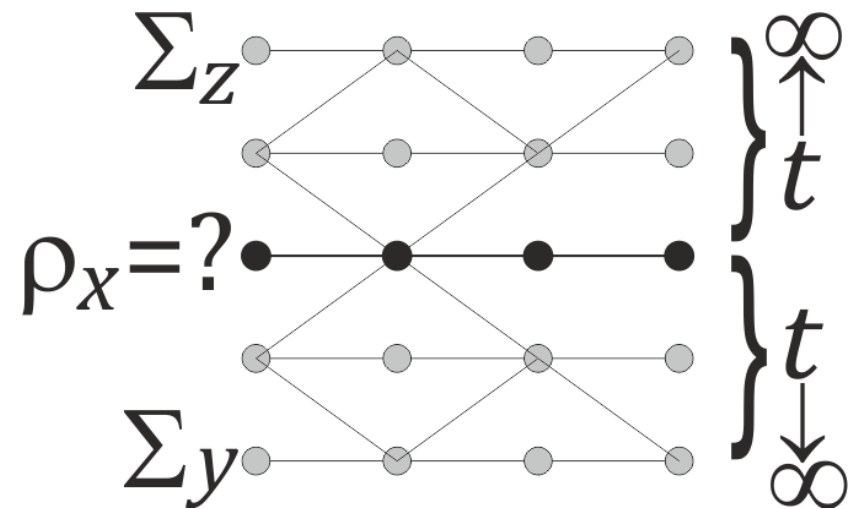
The number of length $2t$ paths with x in the center:

$$\sum_{yz} (M^t)_{yx} (M^t)_{xz} \approx \lambda^{2t} \psi_x^2$$

$$\rho_x \equiv \text{Pr}(x) \propto \psi_x^2 \quad \text{– Born rule}$$

$$\text{Analogously } \text{Pr}(xy) \propto \psi_x M_{xy} \psi_y \Rightarrow \mathbf{S}_{xy} = \frac{M_{xy}}{\lambda} \frac{\psi_y}{\psi_x} \quad \text{stochastic matrix}$$

$$\text{Generally:} \quad \text{Pr}(\gamma_0 \dots \gamma_l) = \frac{1}{\lambda^l} \frac{\psi_{\gamma_0}}{\psi_{\gamma_l}} \quad (S^l)_{xy} = \frac{(M^l)_{xy}}{\lambda^l} \frac{\psi_y}{\psi_x}$$



Gathered formulas:

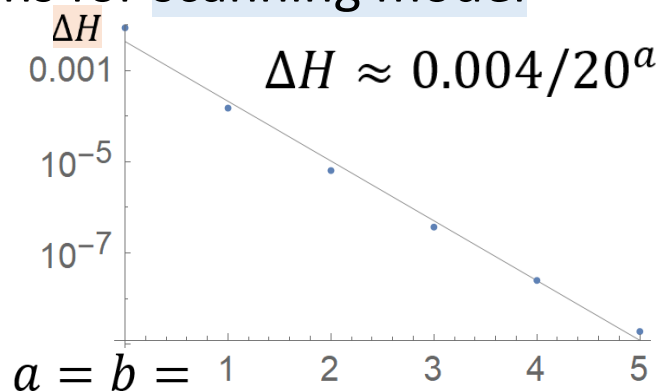
M : adjacency matrix	GRW	MERW
characteristic length	1	∞
$S_{ij} = \Pr(x_{t+1} = j x_t = i)$	$\frac{M_{ij}}{d_i} \quad (d_i = \sum_j M_{ij})$	$\frac{M_{ij}}{\lambda} \frac{\psi_j}{\psi_i} \quad (M\psi = \lambda\psi)$
$\pi S = \pi$ stat. $\pi_i =$ for symmetric M :	complicated $d_i / \sum_j d_j$	$\frac{\varphi_i \psi_i}{\psi_i^2} \quad (\varphi M = \lambda \varphi)$ $(\max \lambda)$
$\bar{S}_{ij} = \Pr(x_t = i x_{t+1} = j)$ symmetric M ($\varphi = \psi$):	$\pi_i M_{ij} / \pi_j$ complicated M_{ij} / d_j	$\frac{M_{ij}}{\lambda} \frac{\varphi_i}{\varphi_j}$
$S_{\gamma_0 \gamma_1} S_{\gamma_1 \gamma_2} \dots S_{\gamma_{l-1} \gamma_l} =$ for path γ	$\frac{M_{\gamma_0 \gamma_1} M_{\gamma_1 \gamma_2} \dots M_{\gamma_{l-1} \gamma_l}}{d_{\gamma_0} d_{\gamma_1} \dots d_{\gamma_{l-1}}}$	$\frac{M_{\gamma_0 \gamma_1} M_{\gamma_1 \gamma_2} \dots M_{\gamma_{l-1} \gamma_l}}{\lambda^l} \frac{\psi_{\gamma_l}}{\psi_{\gamma_0}}$
$(S^l)_{ij} =$	complicated	$\frac{(M^l)_{ij}}{\lambda^l} \frac{\psi_j}{\psi_i}$
scaling, generally	$S^{GRW(M^l)} \neq (S^{GRW(M)})^l$	$S^{MERW(M^l)} = (S^{MERW(M)})^l$
$H(S) = - \sum_i \pi_i \sum_j S_{ij} \lg S_{ij}$	$\sum_i \frac{d_i \lg(d_i)}{\sum_j d_j} \quad (M = M^T)$	$\lg(\lambda)$

Being able to calculate MERW for any adjacency matrix M , approximate 2D Fibonacci with $w \times \infty$ lattice, find conditional distributions for scanning model

Choose $\Pr(?|\bullet)$ based on $a = b$ neighboring values

$\Delta H \approx 0.01 \dots 10^{-9}$ below optimal ≈ 0.587891 bits/node

(originally to be encoded with first ANS: now uABS variant)

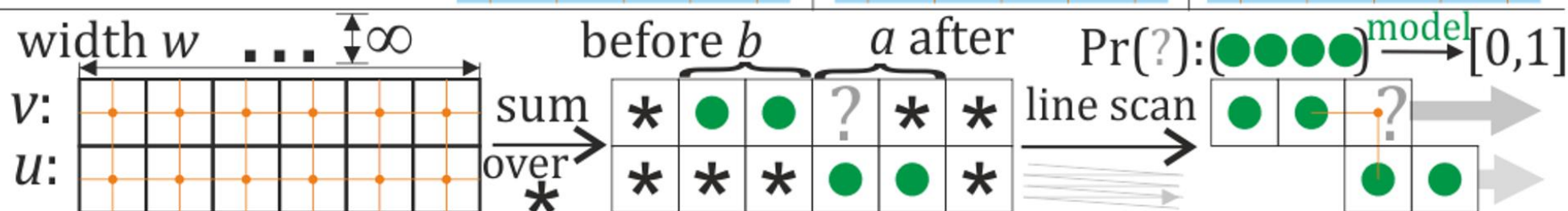
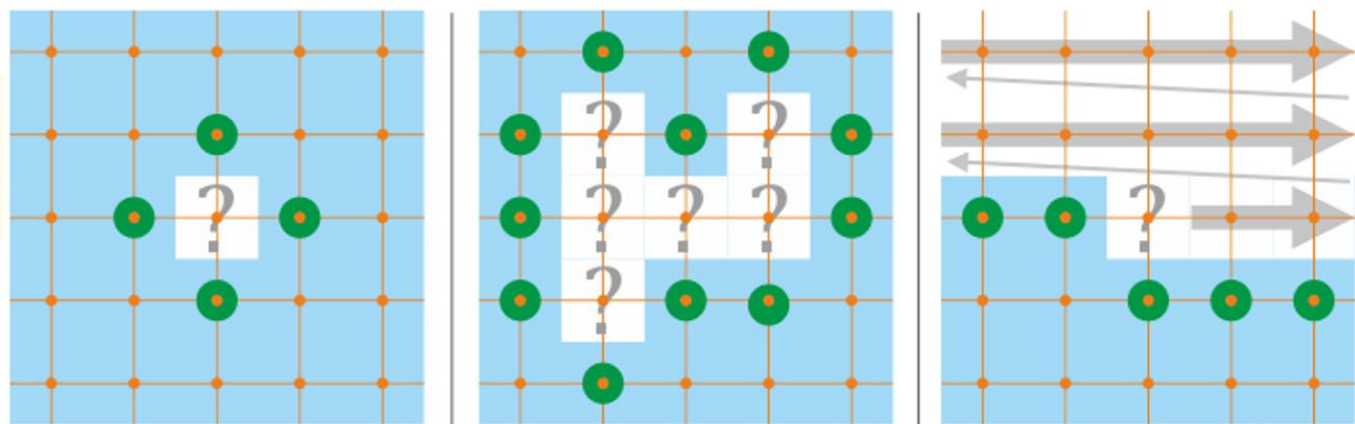


Hammersley-Clifford theorem: **Gibbs field** (Boltzmann distribution)

is equivalent with

Markov field:
 $\Pr(?|\blacksquare) = \Pr(?|\bullet)$

local, global,
scanning:



MERW: $\uparrow$

$$\Pr(uv) = \psi_u \frac{M_{uv}}{\lambda} \psi_v$$

$$M_{uv} = e^{-\beta(E_u/2 + E_{uv} + E_v/2)}$$

$$M\psi = \lambda\psi \quad (\max|\lambda|, \|\psi\|_2 = 1)$$

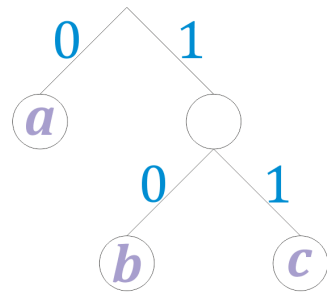
Asymmetric Numeral Systems

i.i.d. $\Pr(0) = \Pr(1)$

complex distr.

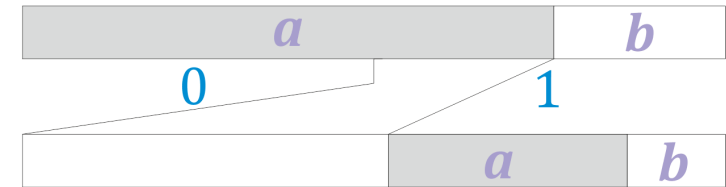
010001 $\leftrightarrow$ abaaabaaa

Past: compromise



(1952)
(prefix,) **Huffman coding**
(also unary, Golomb, Elias, etc.)
fast ($>300\text{MB/s/core}$)
no multiplication, needs sorting
but **inaccurate**: $\Pr(s) \sim 2^{-r}$
e.g. for $\Pr(a)=0.01$, $\Pr(b)=0.99$
uses **1 bit/symbol**

Or?



(~1976)
arithmetic/range coding
slow ($\ll 100\text{MB/s/core}$)
uses multiplication
uses nearly **accurate** $\Pr(s)$
e.g. for $\Pr(a)=0.01$, $\Pr(b)=0.99$
uses **~ 0.08 bits/symbol**

Now: ANS

(2007)
tANS: tabled - no multiplication
"Huffman generalized to **fractional bits**"
also allows for **simultaneous encryption**

mainly used for
smaller models,
fixed
distributions

fast ($> 500\text{MB/s/core}$)
uses nearly **accurate** $\Pr(s)$
e.g. for $\Pr(a)=0.01$, $\Pr(b)=0.99$
uses **~ 0.08 bits/symbol**

(2013)
rANS: range - **direct replacement**
of arithmetic/range coding: with
smaller state, less multiplications

mainly used for
larger models,
adaptive
distributions

e.g. in general compressors (Apple [LZFSE](#), Fb [ZSTD](#)), DNA ([CRAM](#)), [Google Draco](#) ... [JPEG XL](#)

10GB [large text benchmark](#) (2020, i9 9900K), 1GB wiki for 10 languages (ANS):

(combining models for various languages)

10GB -> Size	encoding time	decoding time
5,034,758,325 bytes,	18.449 sec. -	7.311 sec., lz4 -1 (v1.9.2)
4,666,386,317 bytes,	26.686 sec. -	4.827 sec., lzturbo -10 -p0 (v1.2)
4,371,496,854 bytes,	46.907 sec. -	7.282 sec., lz4x -1 (v1.60)
3,909,521,247 bytes,	32.603 sec. -	11.287 sec., lizard -40 (v1.0.0)
3,823,273,187 bytes,	136.146 sec. -	59.070 sec., gzip -1 (v1.3.12) ".zip"
3,770,151,519 bytes,	34.216 sec. -	26.236 sec., brotli -q 0 (v1.0.7)
3,642,089,943 bytes,	28.752 sec. -	10.717 sec., zstd -1 (v1.4.5) LZ + tANS /huf
3,660,882,443 bytes,	767.399 sec. -	7.633 sec., lz4x -9 (v1.60)
3,237,812,198 bytes,	392.835 sec. -	53.771 sec., gzip -9 (v1.3.12) ".zip"
3,095,248,795 bytes,	137.881 sec. -	20.738 sec., brotli -q 4 (v1.0.7)
3,078,914,611 bytes,	240.124 sec. -	9.381 sec., zhuff -c2 -t1 (v0.99beta), LZ4 + tANS
3,065,081,662 bytes,	50.724 sec. -	12.904 sec., zstd -4 --ultra --single-thread (v1.4.5)
2,660,370,879 bytes,	153.103 sec. -	19.993 sec., lzturbo -32 -p0 (v1.2), LZ + tANS
2,639,230,515 bytes,	561.791 sec. -	11.774 sec., zstd -12 --ultra --single-thread(v1.4.5)
2,357,818,671 bytes,	3,953.092 sec. -	34.300 sec., rar -m5 -ma5 -mt1 (v5.80)
2,337,506,087 bytes,	2,411.038 sec. -	11.971 sec., zstd -18 --ultra --single-thread(v1.4.5)
2,220,027,943 bytes,	7,439.064 sec. -	22.690 sec., brotli -q 10 (v1.0.7)
2,080,479,075 bytes,	4,568.550 sec. -	12.934 sec., zstd -22 --ultra --single-thread(v1.4.5)
2,059,053,547 bytes,	4,909.124 sec. -	55.188 sec., 7-Zip -t7z -mx9 -mmt1 (v19.02) - LZMA
1,973,568,508 bytes,	6,626.946 sec. -	89.762 sec., arc -m9 -mt1 (v0.67)
1,921,561,064 bytes,	17,200.759 sec. -	27.147 sec., brotli -q 11 --large_window=30 (v1.0.7)
1,899,403,918 bytes,	1,327.809 sec. -	375.295 sec., nz -c0 -t1 (v0.09 alpha)
1,722,407,658 bytes,	778.796 sec. -	401.317 sec., m99 -b1000000000 -t1 (beta)
1,675,874,699 bytes,	781.839 sec. -	198.309 sec., bwtturbo -59 -t0 (v20.2)
1,644,097,084 bytes,	21,097.196 sec. -	93.130 sec., razor (v1.03.7) - adaptive 4bit rANS
1,638,441,156 bytes,	1,030.489 sec. -	640.502 sec., bsc -m0 -b1024 -e2 -T (v3.1.0)
1,632,628,624 bytes,	1,146.133 sec. -	1,284.451 sec., bcm -9 (v1.40)
1,450,364,034 bytes,	2,701.335 sec. -	2,433.988 sec., mcm -x -m11 (v0.83)

Operating on **fractional number of bits**

The basic ANS concept: store information as a natural number x

Assume **number x contains $\lg(x)$ bits of information**

($\equiv \Pr(x) \sim 1/x$ Zipf law)

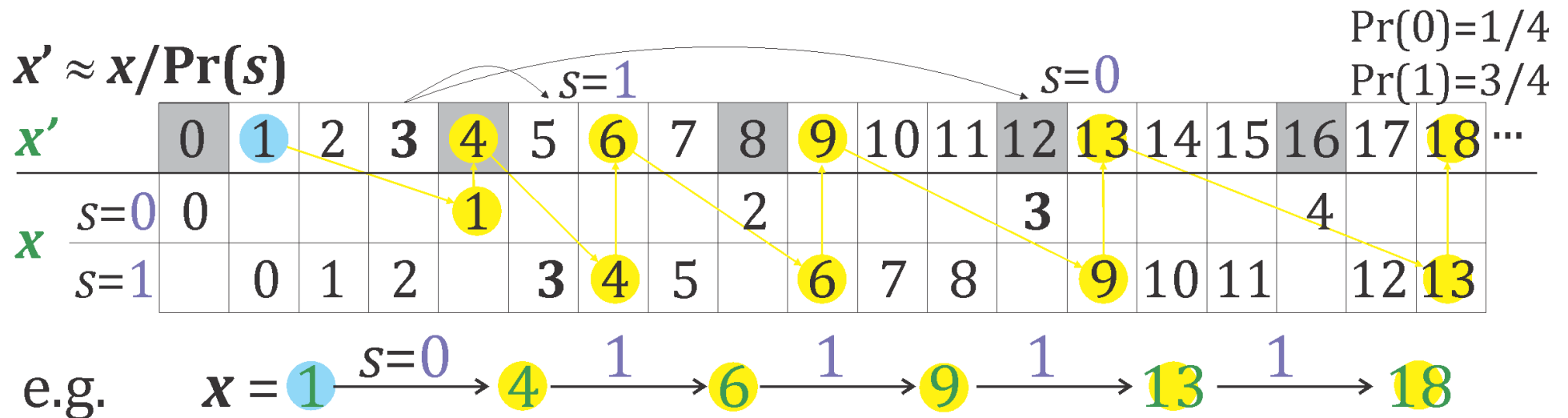
We know **symbol of probability p contains $\lg(1/p)$ bits**

So **new number x' contains: $\lg(x') \approx \lg(x) + \lg(1/p)$ bits**

In other words: **$x' \approx x/p$**

Like in standard binary system $x' = 2x + s \approx x/0.5$

optimal for $\Pr(s = 0) = \Pr(s = 1) = 0.5$



ANS: $x \rightarrow \approx x/\text{Pr}(s)$ while encoding symbol s

Redefine even/odd subsets according to densities

$x \rightarrow x - \text{th appearance of 'even' } (s = 0) \text{ or 'odd' } (s = 1)$



rANS variants: repeating division in ranges

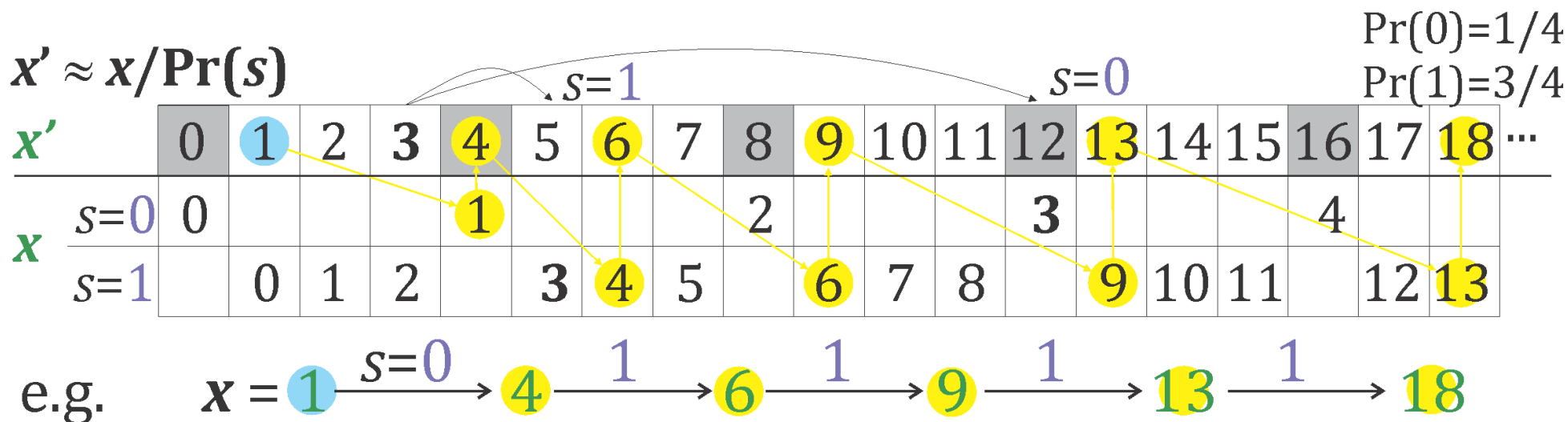
$$\bar{s}(x) = 0 \text{ if } \text{mod}(x, 4) = 0, \quad \text{else } \bar{s}(x) = 1$$

to decode or encode 1, localize quadruple ($\lfloor x/4 \rfloor$ or $\lfloor x/3 \rfloor$)

if $\bar{s}(x) = 0$, $D(x) = (0, \lfloor x/4 \rfloor)$ else $D(x) = (1, 3\lfloor x/4 \rfloor + \text{mod}(x, 4) - 1)$

$$C(0, x) = 4x$$

$$C(1, x) = 4\lfloor x/3 \rfloor + 1 + \text{mod}(x, 3)$$





rANS - range variant for large alphabet $\mathcal{A} = \{0, \dots, m - 1\}$

assume $\Pr(s) = f_s / 2^n$

$$c_s := f_0 + f_1 + \dots + f_{s-1}$$

start with base 2^n numeral system and merge length f_s ranges

for $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2^n - 1\}$, $\bar{s}(x) = \mathbf{max}\{s: c_s \leq x\}$, $\text{mask} = 2^n - 1$

encoding: $C(s, x) = \lfloor x / f_s \rfloor \ll n + \text{mod}(x, f_s) + c_s$

decoding: $s = \bar{s}(x \& \text{mask})$ (e.g. tabled, alias method)

$$D(x) = (s, f_s \cdot (x \gg n) + (x \& \text{mask}) - c_s)$$

Plus **renormalization** to make for example $x \in \{2^{16}, \dots, 2^{32} - 1\}$, $n = 12$:

Decoding step $(\text{mask} = 2^n - 1)$	Encoding step $(\text{msk} = 2^{16} - 1, d = 32 - n)$
$s = \text{symbol}[x \& \text{mask}]$ $\text{writeSymbol}(s);$ $x = f[s] (x \gg n) + (x \& \text{mask}) - c[s];$ $\text{if}(x < 2^{16}) \ x = x \ll 16 + \text{read16bits}();$	$s = \text{readSymbol}();$ $\text{if}(x \geq (f[s] \ll d))$ $\{\text{write16bits}(x \& \text{msk}); x \gg= 16; \}$ $x = \lfloor x / f[s] \rfloor \ll n + (x \% f[s]) + c[s];$

CRAM v3 (2015): [order 1 rANS](#): 256 frequencies depending on the previous symbol

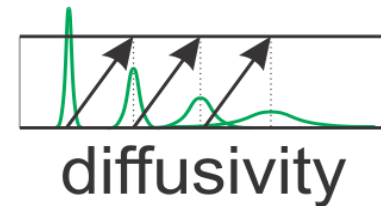
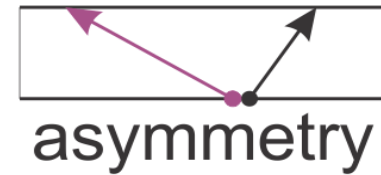
RENORMALIZATION to prevent $x \rightarrow \infty$

Enforce $x \in I = \{L, \dots, 2L - 1\}$ by
transmitting lowest bits to bitstream

“buffer” x contains $\lg(x)$ bits of information
– produces bits when **accumulated**

Symbol of $Pr = p$ contains $\lg(1/p)$ bits:

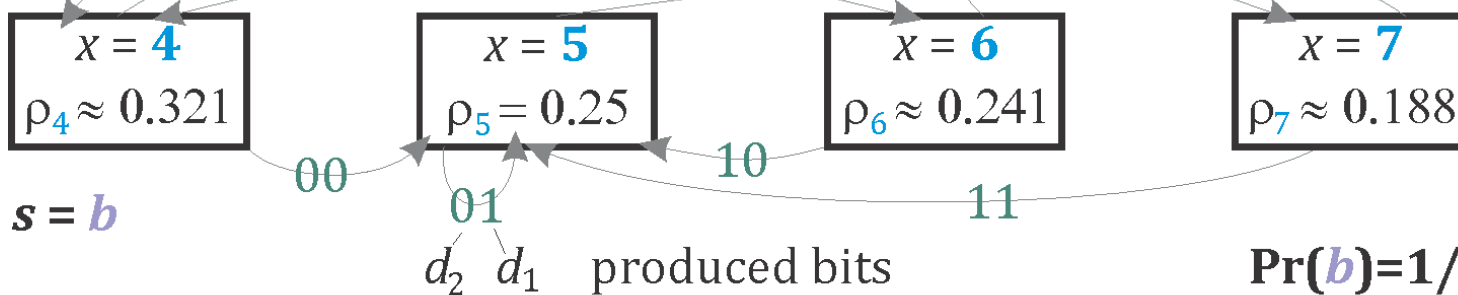
$\lg(x) \rightarrow \approx \lg(x) + \lg(1/p)$ modulo 1



Tabled variant (tABS/tANS) – put everything into a table:

encoding:

$s = a$



$Pr(a) = 3/4$

decoding:

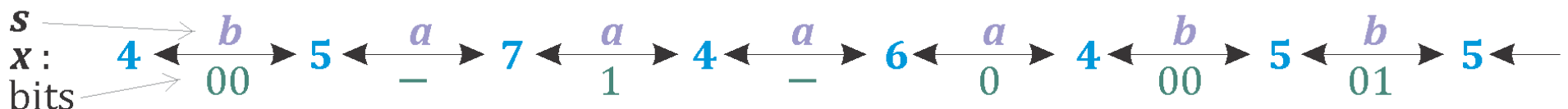
$x \rightarrow s, \text{ new } x$
 $4 \rightarrow a, 6 + d_1$
 $5 \rightarrow b, 4 + 2d_2 + d_1$
 $6 \rightarrow a, 4$
 $7 \rightarrow a, 5$
 newX nbBits
 decodingTable

$Pr(b) = 1/4$

example:

encoding

decoding



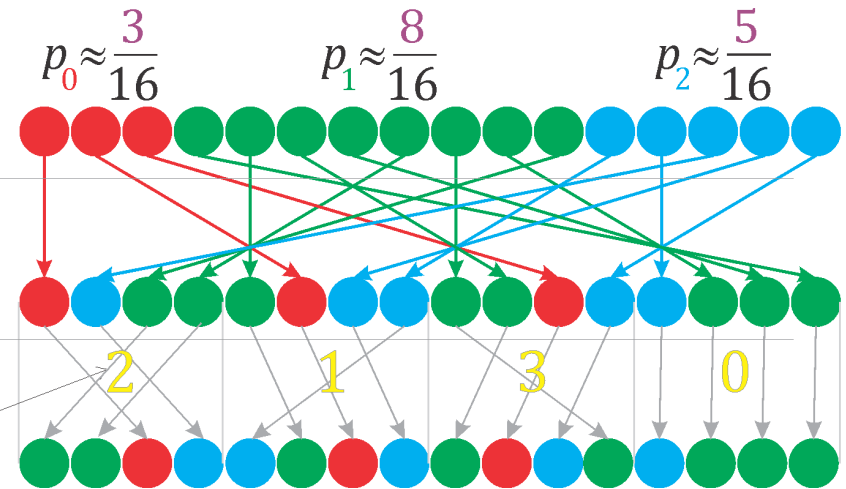
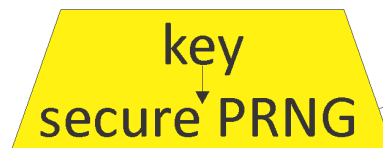
example of tANS construction for $L=16$ states and size 3 alphabet
`t=decodingTable[x]; use(t.symbol);  $x \rightarrow \mathbf{t.newX} + \mathbf{readBits(t.nbBits)}$ ;`

1. Approximate probabilities

as $p_s \approx L_s / L$

2. Spread symbols: L_s of symbol s (fast, step = 5)

2*. Scramble (4 block cycle)



3. Enumerate appearances

from L_s to $2L_s - 1$

$L=16$, $L_0=3$, $L_1=8$, $L_2=5$

$C(s,x)$	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
$s=0$			3				4			5						
$s=1$	8	9				10			11			12		13	14	15
$s=2$				5	6			7			8		9			

4. Renormalize to make x remain in $I = \{L, \dots, 2L-1\}$ range

decodingTable:

(symbol,
nbBits,
newX)

x	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
symbol	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	2	1	1	1
pre-renormalization x_{tmp}	8	9	3	5	6	10	4	7	11	5	8	12	9	13	14	15
nbBits to read to return to I	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
$\mathbf{newX} = x_{tmp} \ll \mathbf{nbBits}$	16	18	24	20	24	20	16	28	22	20	16	24	18	26	28	30

5. Endode/decode - e.g. decoding 111000011010100111

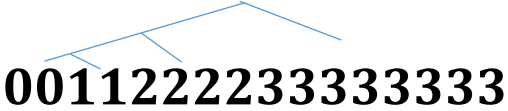
bits $\rightarrow$ 11 10 0 0 11 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 1
 $x:$ 25 $\xrightarrow{0}$ 23 $\xrightarrow{2}$ 30 $\xrightarrow{1}$ 28 $\xrightarrow{2}$ 18 $\xrightarrow{0}$ 27 $\xrightarrow{1}$ 24 $\xrightarrow{1}$ 23 $\xrightarrow{2}$ 29 $\xrightarrow{1}$ 26 $\xrightarrow{2}$ 16 $\xrightarrow{1}$ 17 $\xrightarrow{1}$ 19
 $s \rightarrow$ 0 2 1 2 0 1 1 2 1 2

Which **symbol spread** should we choose? ([link](#))

(using PRNG seeded with cryptkey for encryption)

for example: **ratio loss** for $p = (0.04, 0.16, 0.16, 0.64)$

$L = 16$ states, $q = (1, 3, 2, 10)$, $q/L = (0.0625, 0.1875, 0.125, 0.625)$

method	symbol spread	$\Delta H/H$ ratio loss	
-	-	~0.011	penalty of quantizer itself
Huffman	 0011222233333333	~0.080	would give Huffman decoder
spread_range_i()	0111223333333333	~0.059	Increasing order
spread_range_d()	3333333333221110	~0.022	Decreasing order
spread_fast()	0233233133133133	~0.020	fast , in FSE/Zstd
spread_prec()	3313233103332133	~0.015	close to quantization $\Delta H/H$
spread_tuned()	3233321333313310	~0.0046	better than quantization $\Delta H/H$ due to also using p
spread_tuned_s()	2333312333313310	~0.0040	$L \log L$ complexity (sort)
spread_tuned_p()	2331233330133331	~0.0058	testing $1/(p \ln(1+1/i)) \approx$ i/p approximation

tANS (2007) - fully tabled: [Apple LZFSE](#), [Facebook ZSTD](#), [lzturbo](#)
 fast: no multiplication (**FPGA!**), less memory efficient (~8kB for 2048 states)
 static in ~32kB blocks, costly to update (rather needs rebuilding),
 allows for simultaneous encryption (CSPRNG to perturb symbol spread)

tANS decoding step	Encoding step (for symbol s)
$t = \text{decodingTable}[x];$ $\text{writeSymbol}(t.\text{symbol});$ $x = t.\text{newX} + \text{readBits}(t.\text{nbBits});$	$\text{nbBits} = (x + \text{nb}[s]) \gg r;$ $\text{writeBits}(x, \text{nbBits});$ $x = \text{encodingTable}[\text{start}[s] + (x \gg \text{nbBits})];$

rANS (2013) – needs multiplication – [CRAM \(DNA\)](#), [RAZOR](#), [BB-ANS](#), [JPEG XL](#)
 more memory effective – especially for large alphabet and precision (CDF only)
 better for adaptation ($CDF[s] \leq y < CDF[s + 1]$ - tabled, alias, binary search/SIMD)

rANS decoding step (mask = $2^n - 1$)	Encoding step (s) ($msk = 2^{16} - 1, d = 32 - n$)
$s = \text{symbol}(x \& \text{mask}); \text{writeSymbol}(s);$ $x = f[s] (x \gg n) + (x \& \text{mask}) - c[s];$ $\text{if}(x < 2^{16}) \ x = x \ll 16 + \text{read16bits}();$	$\text{if}(x \geq (f[s] \ll d))$ $\quad \{ \text{write16bits}(x \& \text{msk}); x \gg= 16; \}$ $x = \lfloor x / f[s] \rfloor \ll n + (x \% f[s]) + c[s];$

