

CSEP 590  
Data Compression  
Autumn 2007

Course Policies  
Introduction to Data Compression  
Entropy  
Variable Length Codes

# Instructors

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# Helpful Knowledge

- Algorithm Design and Analysis
- Probability

# Resources

- Text Book
  - Khalid Sayood, Introduction to Data Compression, Third Edition, Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, 2006.
- Course Web Page
  - <http://www.cs.washington.edu/csep590a>
- Papers and Sections from Books
- Discussion Board
  - For discussion

# Engagement by Students

- Weekly Assignments
  - Understand compression methodology
  - Due in class on Fridays (except midterm Friday)
  - No late assignments accepted except with prior approval
- Programming Projects
  - Bi-level arithmetic coder and decoder.
  - Build code and experiment

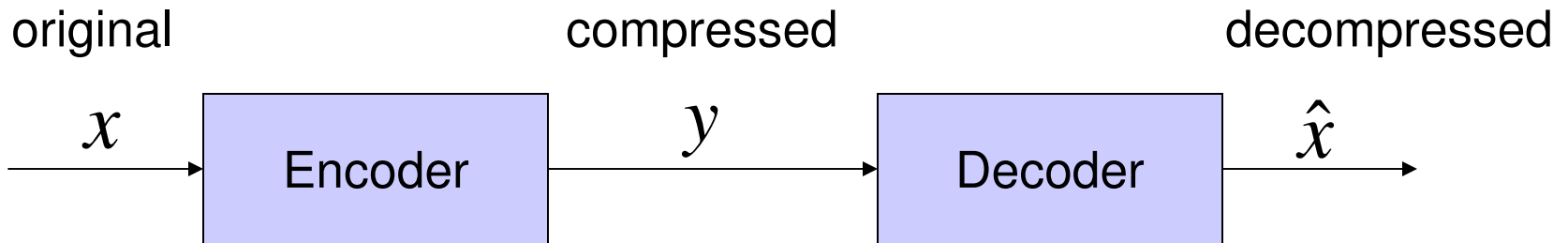
# Final Exam and Grading

- 6:30-8:20 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007
- Percentages
  - Weekly assignments (50%)
  - Project (20%)
  - Final exam (30%)

# Logistics

- I will be gone the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>. We'll need to have a make up class.
- There is no class Thanksgiving week, November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- We have some guest speakers toward the end of the quarter.

# Basic Data Compression Concepts



- **Lossless** compression  $x = \hat{x}$ 
  - Also called entropy coding, reversible coding.
- **Lossy** compression  $x \neq \hat{x}$ 
  - Also called irreversible coding.
- **Compression ratio** =  $|x|/|y|$ 
  - $|x|$  is number of bits in  $x$ .





# Why Compress


- **Conserve storage space**
- **Reduce time for transmission**
  - Faster to encode, send, then decode than to send the original
- **Progressive transmission**
  - Some compression techniques allow us to send the most important bits first so we can get a low resolution version of some data before getting the high fidelity version
- **Reduce computation**
  - Use less data to achieve an approximate answer

# Braille

- System to read text by feeling raised dots on paper (or on electronic displays). Invented in 1820s by Louis Braille, a French blind man.

a 

b 

c 

z 


and 


the 

with 

mother 

th 

ch 

gh 

# Braille Example

## Clear text:

Call me Ishmael. Some years ago -- never mind how long precisely -- having \ little or no money in my purse, and nothing particular to interest me on shore, \ I thought I would sail about a little and see the watery part of the world. (238 characters)

## Grade 2 Braille in ASCII.

,call me ,i\%mael4 ,``s ye\$>\$s ago -- n``e m9d h[ l;g  
precisely -- hav+ \ ll or no m``oy 9 my purse1 \& no?+  
``picul\$>\$ 6 9t]e/ me on \%ore1 \ ,i \$?\$``\$|\$ ,i wd sail  
ab a ll \& see ! wat]y ``p ( !\\_w4 (203 characters)

Compression ratio =  $238/203 = 1.17$

# Lossless Compression

- Data is not lost - the original is really needed.
  - text compression
  - compression of computer binary files
- Compression ratio typically no better than 4:1 for lossless compression on many kinds of files.
- Statistical Techniques
  - Huffman coding
  - Arithmetic coding
  - Golomb coding
- Dictionary techniques
  - LZW, LZ77
  - Sequitur
  - Burrows-Wheeler Method
- Standards - Morse code, Braille, Unix compress, gzip, zip, bzip, GIF, JBIG, Lossless JPEG

# Lossy Compression

- Data is lost, but not too much.
  - audio
  - video
  - still images, medical images, photographs
- Compression ratios of 10:1 often yield quite high fidelity results.
- Major techniques include
  - Vector Quantization
  - Wavelets
  - Block transforms
  - Standards - JPEG, JPEG2000, MPEG 2, H.264

# Why is Data Compression Possible

- Most data from nature has **redundancy**
  - There is more data than the actual information contained in the data.
  - Squeezing out the excess data amounts to compression.
  - However, unsqueezing is necessary to be able to figure out what the data means.
- **Information theory** is needed to understand the limits of compression and give clues on how to compress well.

# What is Information

- Analog data
  - Also called continuous data
  - Represented by real numbers (or complex numbers)
- Digital data
  - Finite set of symbols  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}$
  - All data represented as sequences (strings) in the symbol set.
  - Example:  $\{a,b,c,d,r\}$     abracadabra
  - Digital data can be an approximation to analog data

# Symbols

- Roman alphabet plus punctuation
- ASCII - 256 symbols
- Binary -  $\{0,1\}$ 
  - 0 and 1 are called bits
  - All digital information can be represented efficiently in binary
  - $\{a,b,c,d\}$  fixed length representation

symbol	a	b	c	d
binary	00	01	10	11

- 2 bits per symbol



# Exercise - How Many Bits Per Symbol?

- Suppose we have  $n$  symbols. How many bits (as a function of  $n$ ) are needed in to represent a symbol in binary?
  - First try  $n$  a power of 2.

# Discussion: Non-Powers of Two

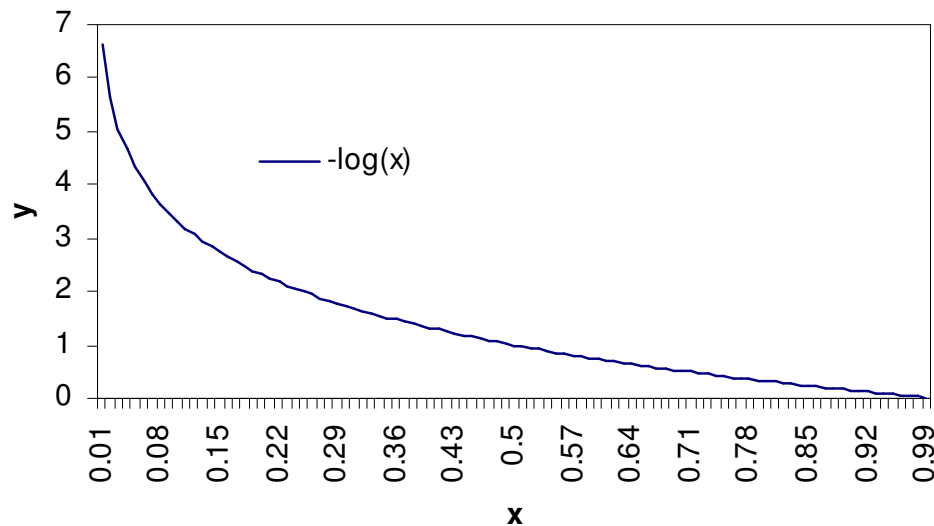
- Can we do better than a fixed length representation for non-powers of two?

# Information Theory

- Developed by Shannon in the 1940's and 50's
- Attempts to explain the limits of communication using probability theory.
- Example: Suppose English text is being sent
  - It is much more likely to receive an “e” than a “z”.
  - In some sense “z” has more information than “e”.

# First-order Information

- Suppose we are given symbols  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}$ .
- $P(a_i)$  = probability of symbol  $a_i$  occurring in the absence of any other information.  
$$P(a_1) + P(a_2) + \dots + P(a_m) = 1$$
- $\text{inf}(a_i) = \log_2(1/P(a_i))$  bits is the information of  $a_i$  in bits.



# Example

- {a, b, c} with  $P(a) = 1/8$ ,  $P(b) = 1/4$ ,  $P(c) = 5/8$ 
  - $\text{inf}(a) = \log_2(8) = 3$
  - $\text{inf}(b) = \log_2(4) = 2$
  - $\text{inf}(c) = \log_2(8/5) = .678$
- Receiving an “a” has more information than receiving a “b” or “c”.

# First Order Entropy

- The first order entropy is defined for a probability distribution over symbols  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}$ .

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^m P(a_i) \log_2 \left( \frac{1}{P(a_i)} \right)$$

- $H$  is the average number of bits required to code up a symbol, given all we know is the probability distribution of the symbols.
- $H$  is the Shannon lower bound on the average number of bits to code a symbol in this “source model”.
- Stronger models of entropy include context.

# Entropy Examples

- {a, b, c} with a 1/8, b 1/4, c 5/8.
  - $H = 1/8 * 3 + 1/4 * 2 + 5/8 * .678 = 1.3$  bits/symbol
- {a, b, c} with a 1/3, b 1/3, c 1/3. (worst case)
  - $H = 3 * (1/3) * \log_2(3) = 1.6$  bits/symbol
- Note that a standard code takes 2 bits per symbol

symbol	a	b	c
binary code	00	01	10

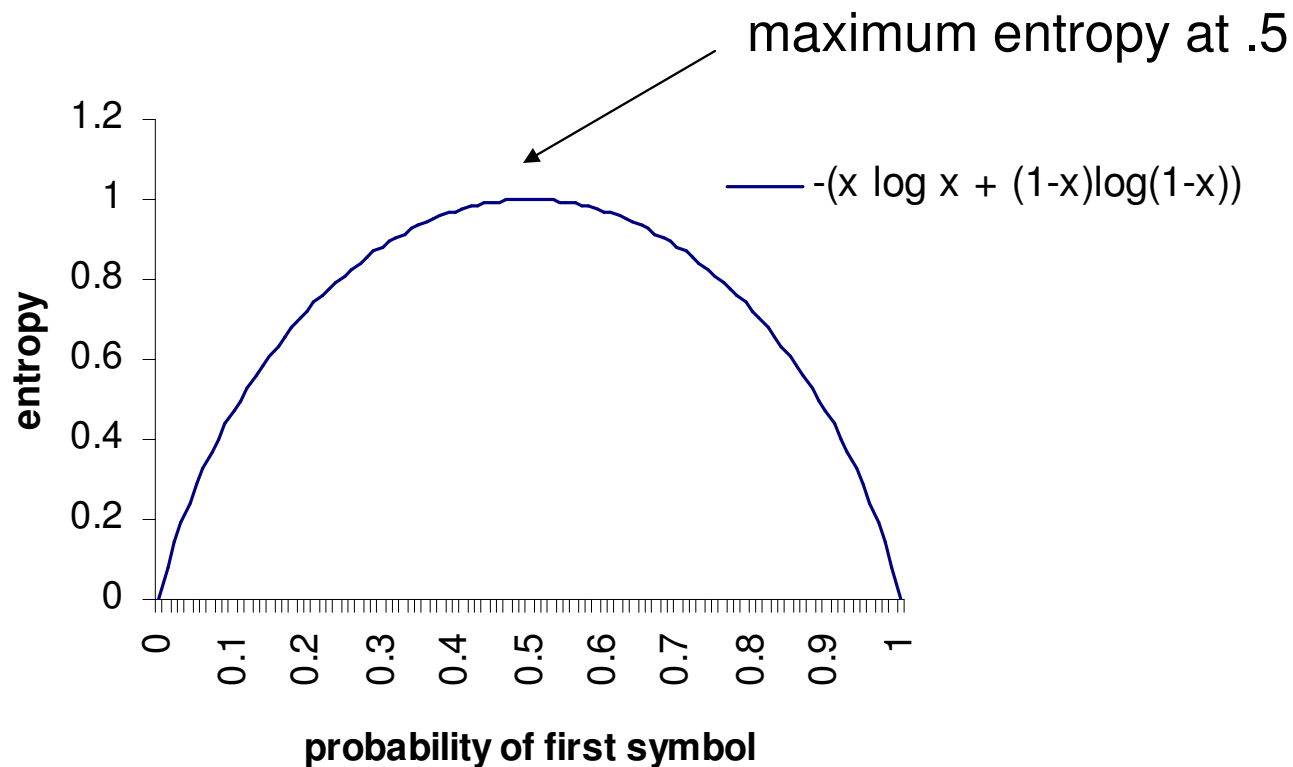
# An Extreme Case

- $\{a, b, c\}$  with  $a = 1, b = 0, c = 0$ 
  - $H = ?$



# Entropy Curve

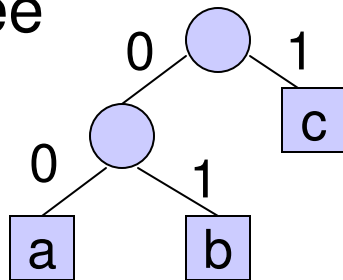
- Suppose we have two symbols with probabilities  $x$  and  $1-x$ , respectively.



# A Simple Prefix Code

- {a, b, c} with a 1/8, b 1/4, c 5/8.
- A **prefix code** is defined by a binary tree
- **Prefix code property**
  - no output is a prefix of another

binary tree



input output

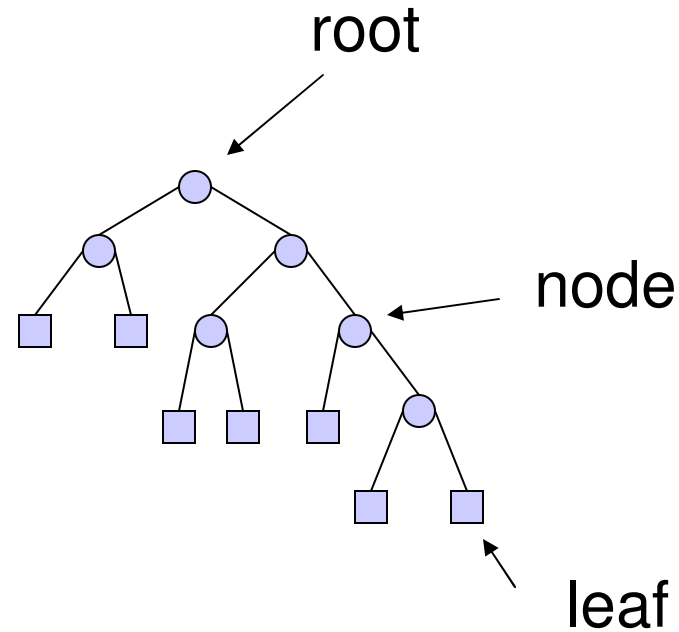
a	00
b	01
c	1

code

ccabccbccc

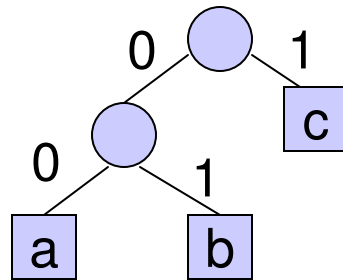
1 1 00 01 1 1 01 1 1 1

# Binary Tree Terminology



1. Each node, except the root, has a unique parent.
2. Each internal node has exactly two children.

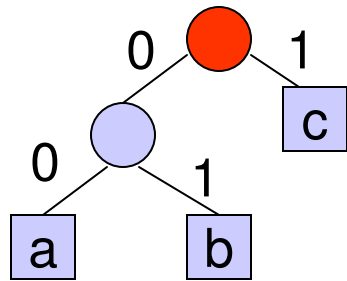
# Decoding a Prefix Code



repeat  
start at root of tree  
repeat  
if read bit = 1 then go right  
else go left  
until node is a leaf  
report leaf  
until end of the code

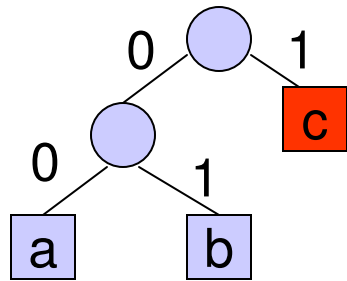
11000111100

# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

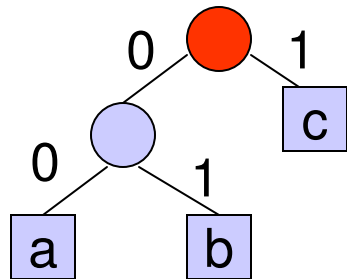
# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

c

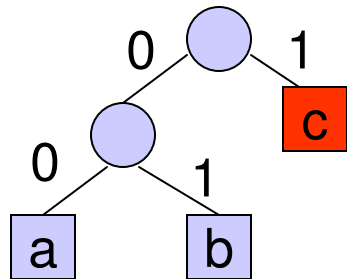
# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

c

# Decoding a Prefix Code

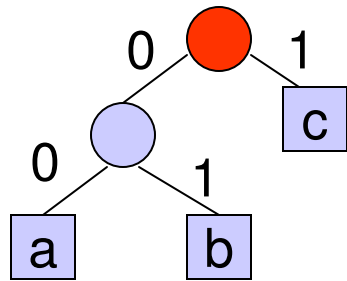


11000111100

cc



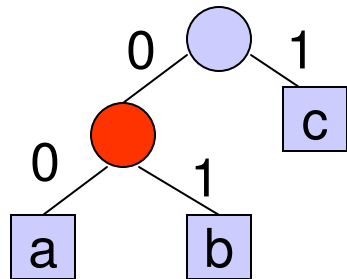
# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

cc

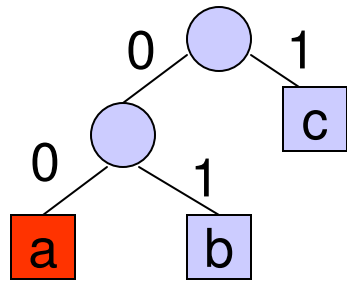
# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

cc

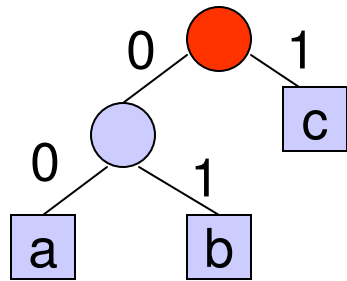
# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

cca

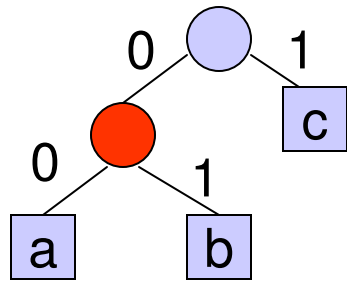
# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

cca

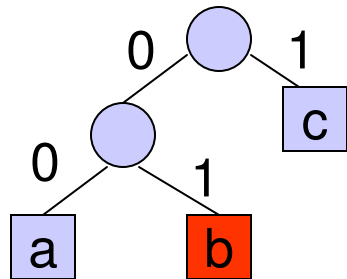
# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

cca

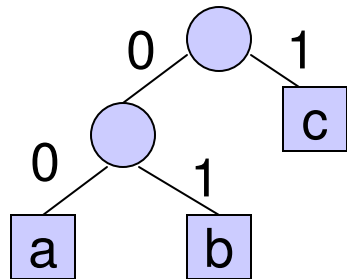
# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

ccab

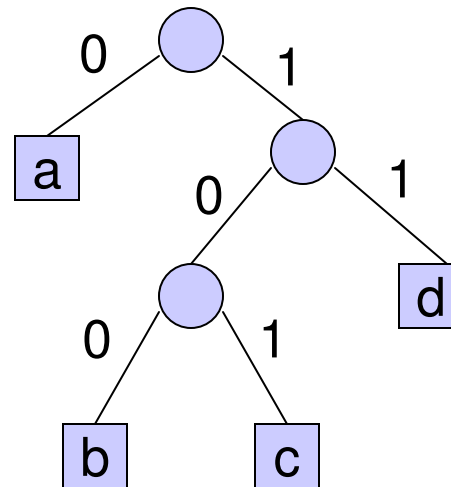
# Decoding a Prefix Code



11000111100

ccabccca

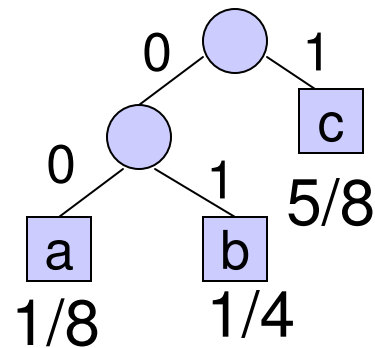
# Exercise Encode/Decode



- Player 1: Encode a symbol string
- Player 2: Decode the string
- Check for equality



# How Good is the Code



bit rate =  $(1/8)2 + (1/4)2 + (5/8)1 = 11/8 = 1.375$  bps

Entropy = 1.3 bps

Standard code = 2 bps

(bps = bits per symbol)

# Design a Prefix Code 1

- abracadabra
- Design a prefix code for the 5 symbols {a,b,r,c,d} which compresses this string the most.

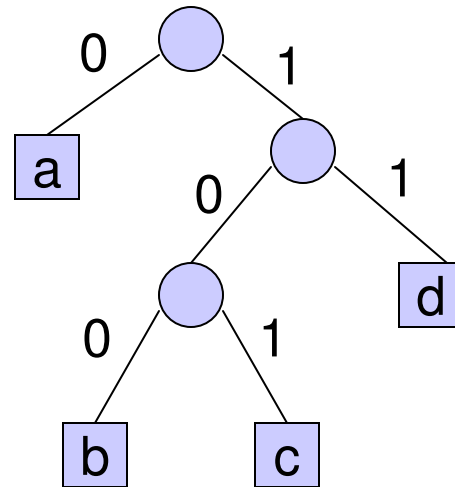
## Design a Prefix Code 2

- Suppose we have  $n$  symbols each with probability  $1/n$ . Design a prefix code with minimum average bit rate.
- Consider  $n = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$  first.

# Huffman Coding

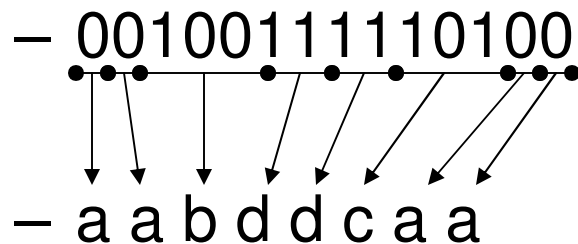
- Huffman (1951)
- Uses frequencies of symbols in a string to build a variable rate prefix code.
  - Each symbol is mapped to a binary string.
  - More frequent symbols have shorter codes.
  - No code is a prefix of another.
- Example:

a 0  
b 100  
c 101  
d 11



# Variable Rate Code Example

- Example: a 0, b 100, c 101, d 11
- Coding:
  - aabddcaa = 16 bits
  - 0 0 100 11 11 101 0 0 = 14 bits
- Prefix code ensures unique decodability.



## Cost of a Huffman Tree

- Let  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m$  be the probabilities for the symbols  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m$ , respectively.
- Define the cost of the Huffman tree  $T$  to be

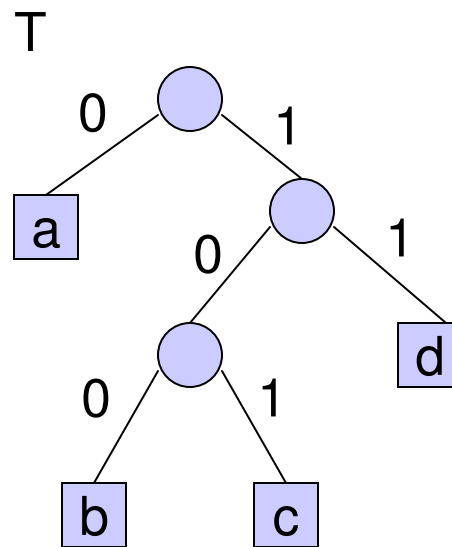
$$C(T) = \sum_{i=1}^m p_i r_i$$

where  $r_i$  is the length of the path from the root to  $a_i$ .

- $C(T)$  is the expected length of the code of a symbol coded by the tree  $T$ .  $C(T)$  is the **bit rate** of the code.

# Example of Cost

- Example: a  $1/2$ , b  $1/8$ , c  $1/8$ , d  $1/4$



$$C(T) = \underset{a}{1} \times \frac{1}{2} + \underset{b}{3} \times \frac{1}{8} + \underset{c}{3} \times \frac{1}{8} + \underset{d}{2} \times \frac{1}{4} = 1.75$$

# Huffman Tree

- Input: Probabilities  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m$  for symbols  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m$ , respectively.
- Output: A tree that minimizes the average number of bits (bit rate) to code a symbol. That is, minimizes

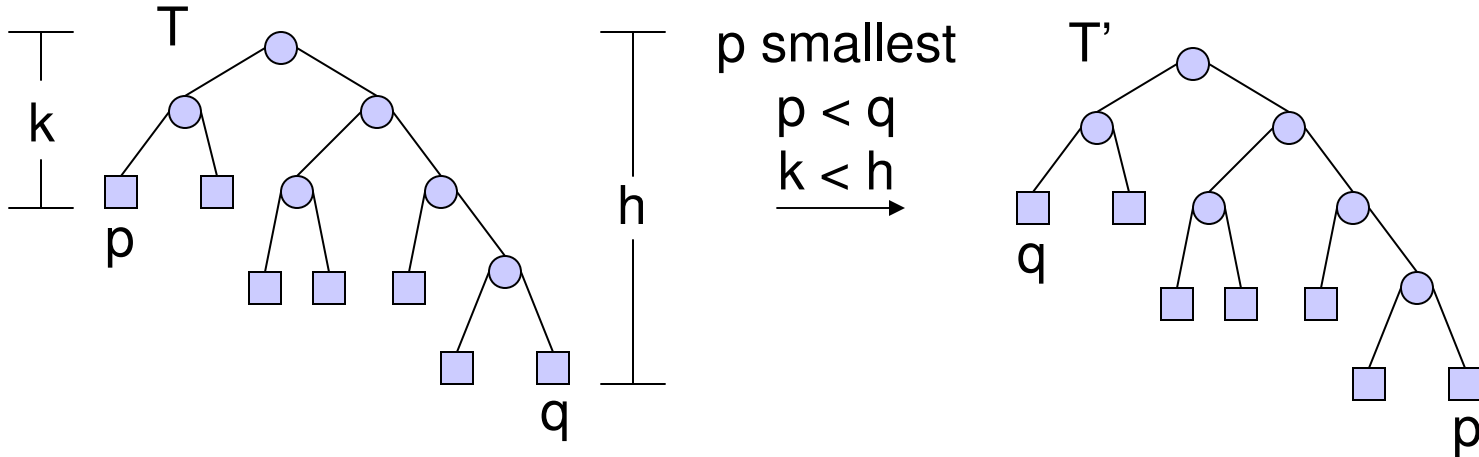
$$HC(T) = \sum_{i=1}^m p_i r_i \quad \text{bit rate}$$

where  $r_i$  is the length of the path from the root to  $a_i$ . This is the Huffman tree or Huffman code



# Optimality Principle 1

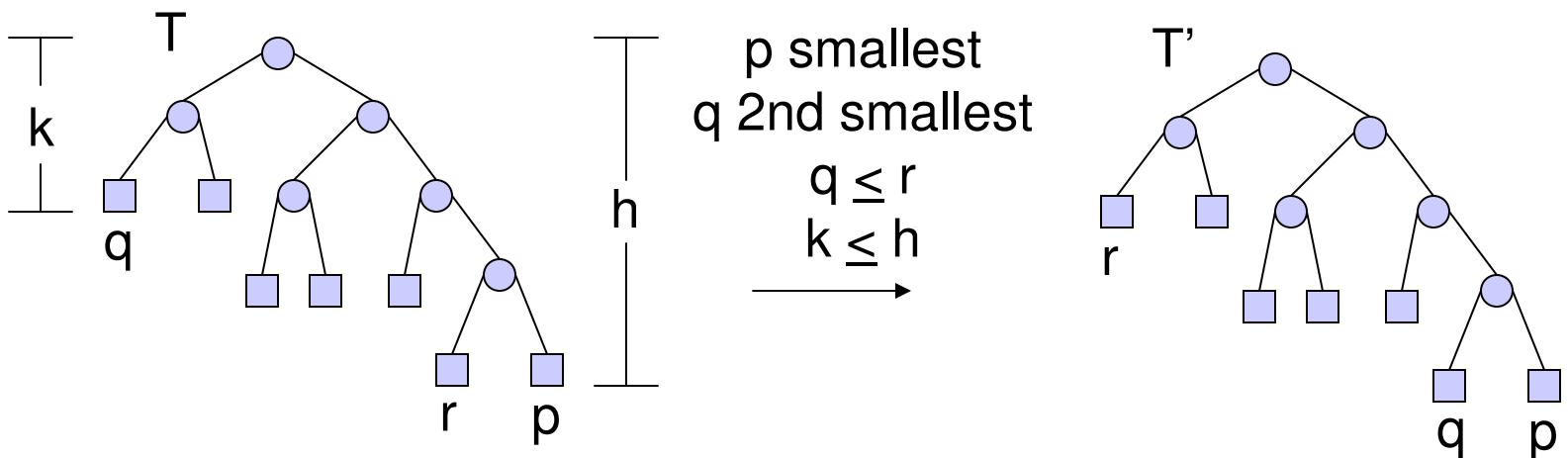
- In a Huffman tree a lowest probability symbol has maximum distance from the root.
  - If not exchanging a lowest probability symbol with one at maximum distance will lower the cost.



$$C(T') = C(T) + hp - hq + kq - kp = C(T) - (h-k)(q-p) < C(T)$$

## Optimality Principle 2

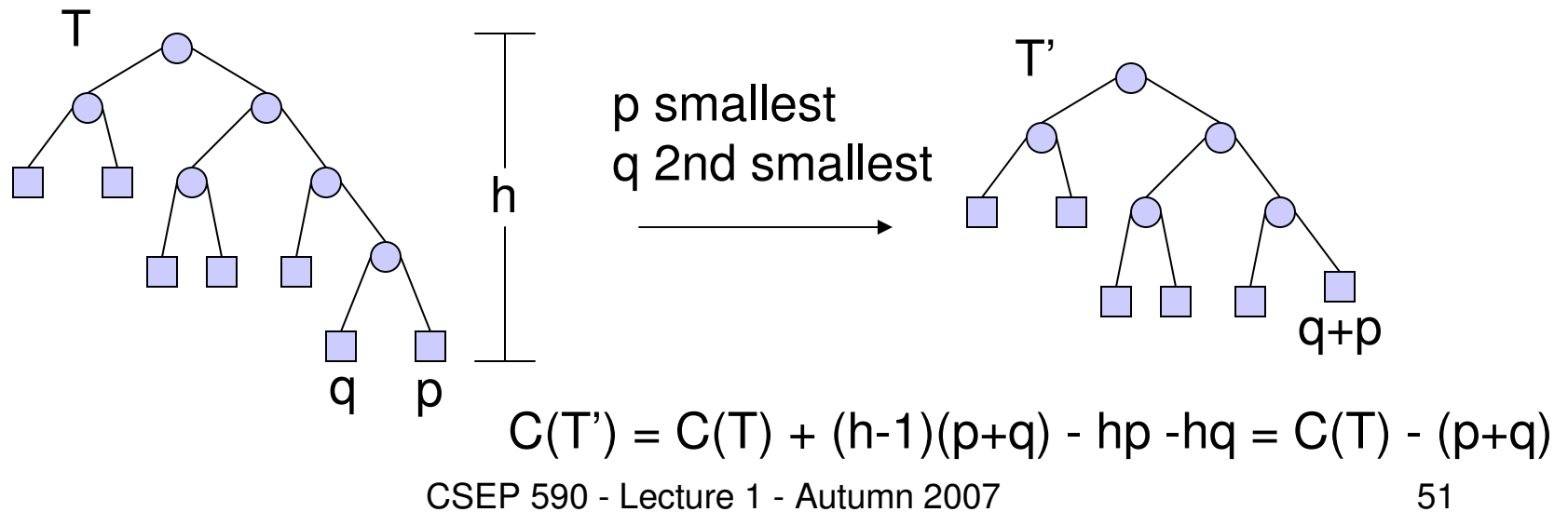
- The second lowest probability is a sibling of the smallest in some Huffman tree.
  - If not, we can move it there not raising the cost.



$$C(T') = C(T) + hq - hr + kr - kq = C(T) - (h-k)(r-q) \leq C(T)$$

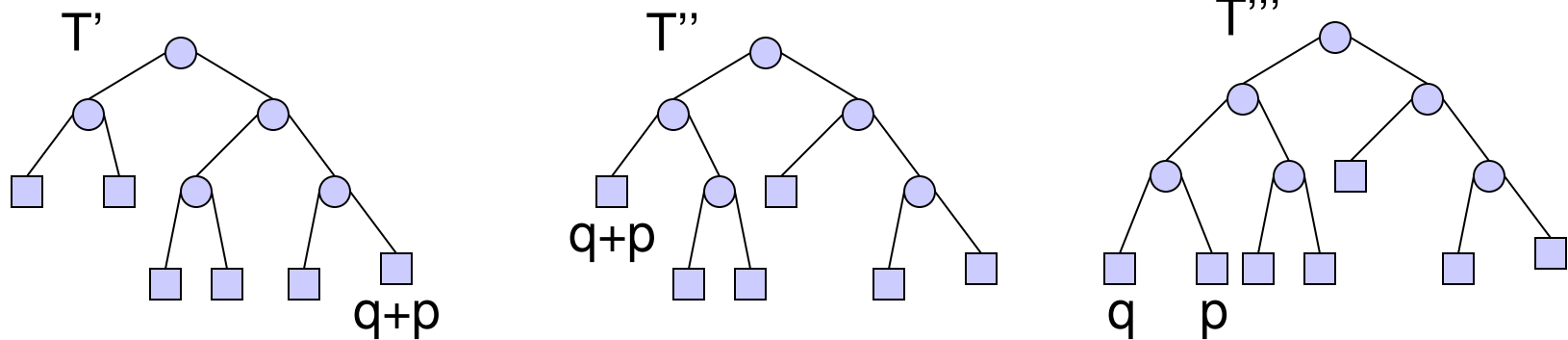
# Optimality Principle 3

- Assuming we have a Huffman tree  $T$  whose two lowest probability symbols are siblings at maximum depth, they can be replaced by a new symbol whose probability is the sum of their probabilities.
  - The resulting tree is optimal for the new symbol set.



## Optimality Principle 3 (cont')

- If  $T'$  were not optimal then we could find a lower cost tree  $T''$ . This will lead to a lower cost tree  $T'''$  for the original alphabet.



$$C(T''') = C(T'') + p + q < C(T') + p + q = C(T) \quad \text{which is a contradiction}$$

# Recursive Huffman Tree Algorithm

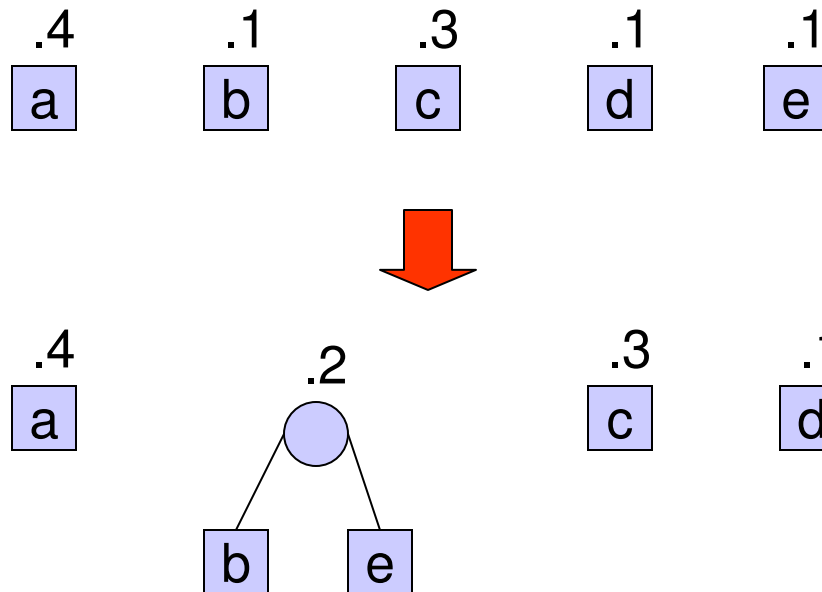
1. If there is just one symbol, a tree with one node is optimal. Otherwise
2. Find the two lowest probability symbols with probabilities  $p$  and  $q$  respectively.
3. Replace these with a new symbol with probability  $p + q$ .
4. Solve the problem recursively for new symbols.
5. Replace the leaf with the new symbol with an internal node with two children with the old symbols.

# Iterative Huffman Tree Algorithm

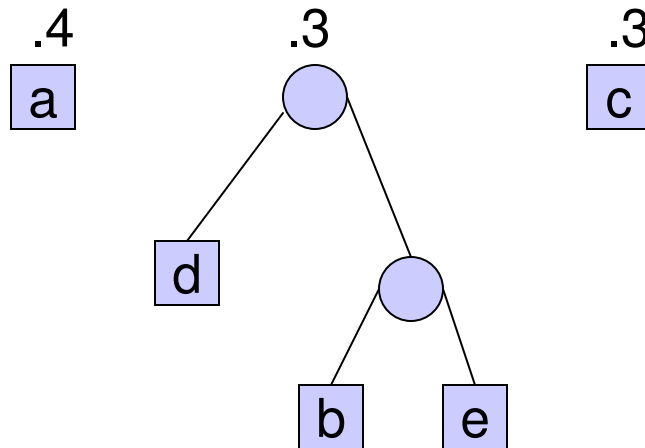
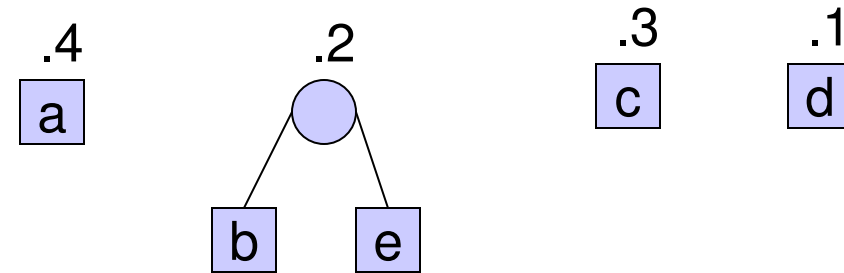
```
form a node for each symbol  $a_i$  with weight  $p_i$ ;  
insert the nodes in a min priority queue ordered by probability;  
while the priority queue has more than one element do  
    min1 := delete-min;  
    min2 := delete-min;  
    create a new node n;  
    n.weight := min1.weight + min2.weight;  
    n.left := min1;  
    n.right := min2;  
    insert(n)  
return the last node in the priority queue.
```

# Example of Huffman Tree Algorithm (1)

- $P(a) = .4$ ,  $P(b) = .1$ ,  $P(c) = .3$ ,  $P(d) = .1$ ,  $P(e) = .1$

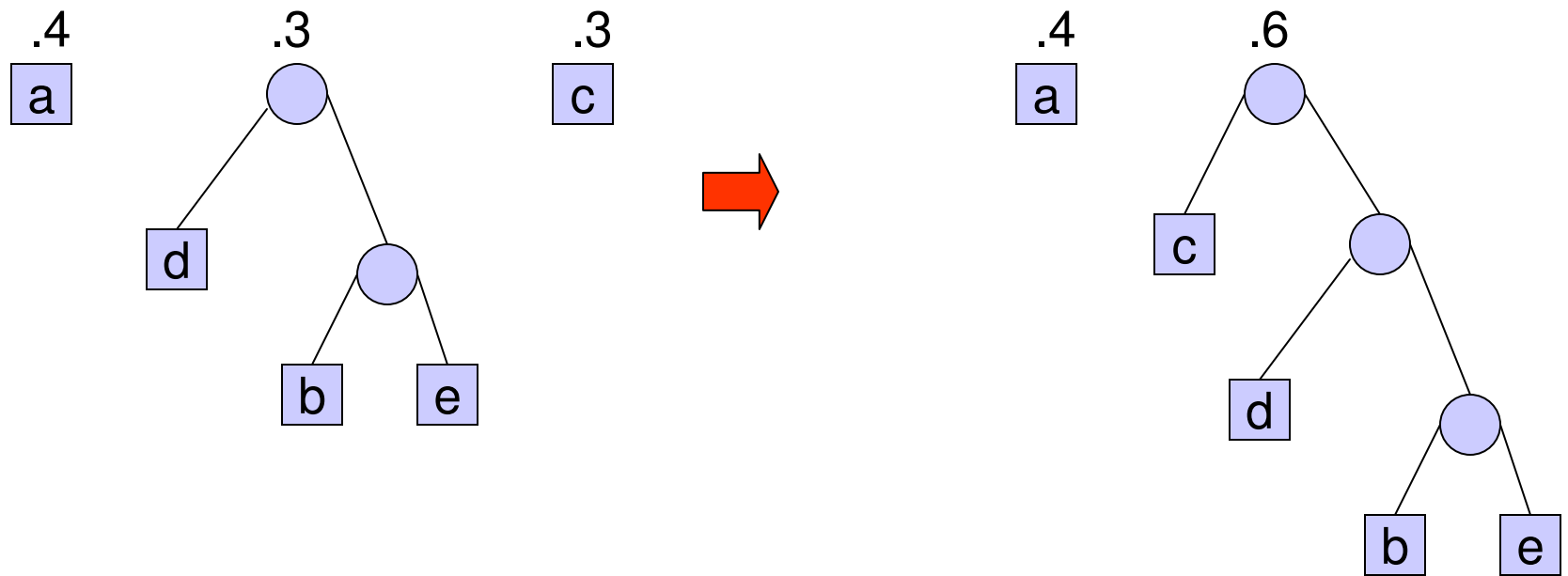


# Example of Huffman Tree Algorithm (2)

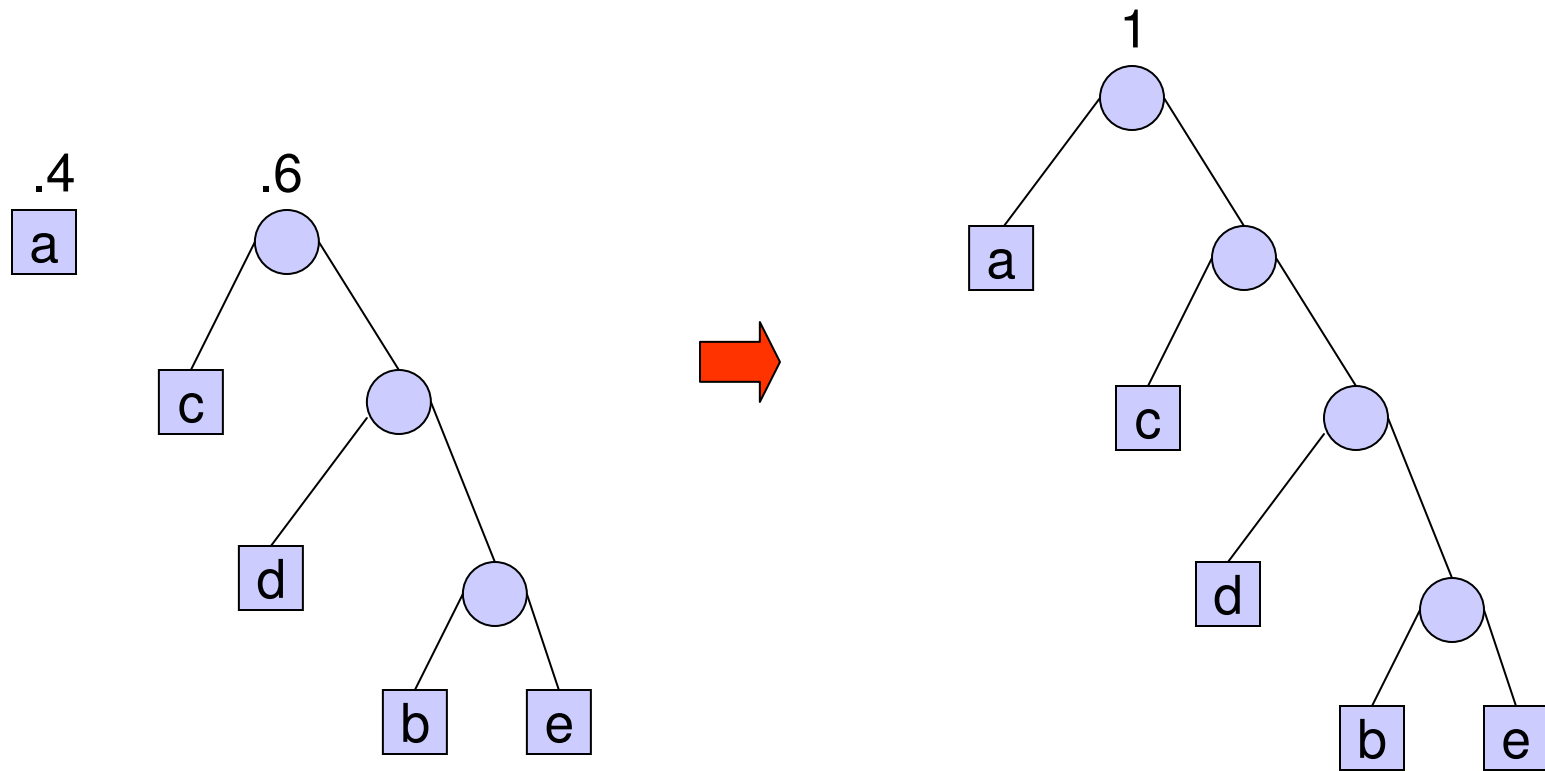




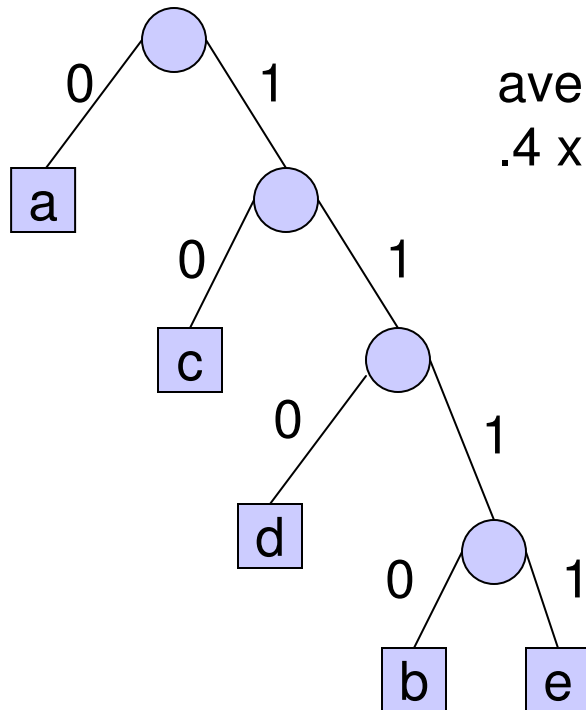
# Example of Huffman Tree Algorithm (3)



# Example of Huffman Tree Algorithm (4)



# Huffman Code



average number of bits per symbol is  
 $.4 \times 1 + .1 \times 4 + .3 \times 2 + .1 \times 3 + .1 \times 4 = 2.1$

a	0
b	1110
c	10
d	110
e	1111

# Optimal Huffman Code vs. Entropy

- $P(a) = .4$ ,  $P(b) = .1$ ,  $P(c) = .3$ ,  $P(d) = .1$ ,  $P(e) = .1$

## Entropy

$$\begin{aligned} H &= -(.4 \times \log_2(.4) + .1 \times \log_2(.1) + .3 \times \log_2(.3) \\ &\quad + .1 \times \log_2(.1) + .1 \times \log_2(.1)) \\ &= 2.05 \text{ bits per symbol} \end{aligned}$$

## Huffman Code

$$\begin{aligned} HC &= .4 \times 1 + .1 \times 4 + .3 \times 2 + .1 \times 3 + .1 \times 4 \\ &= 2.1 \text{ bits per symbol} \\ &\text{pretty good!} \end{aligned}$$

## In Class Exercise

- $P(a) = 1/2$ ,  $P(b) = 1/4$ ,  $P(c) = 1/8$ ,  $P(d) = 1/16$ ,  
 $P(e) = 1/16$
- Compute the Optimal Huffman tree and its average bit rate.
- Compute the Entropy
- Compare
- Hint: For the tree change probabilities to be integers: a:8, b:4, c:2, d:1, e:1. Normalize at the end.

# Quality of the Huffman Code

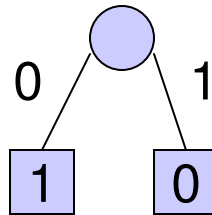
- The Huffman code is within one bit of the entropy lower bound.

$$H \leq HC \leq H + 1$$

- Huffman code does not work well with a two symbol alphabet.

– Example:  $P(0) = 1/100$ ,  $P(1) = 99/100$

–  $HC = 1$  bits/symbol



–  $H = -((1/100) \cdot \log_2(1/100) + (99/100) \log_2(99/100))$   
= .08 bits/symbol

# Powers of Two

- If all the probabilities are powers of two then

$$HC = H$$

- Proof by induction on the number of symbols.

Let  $p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \dots \leq p_n$  be the probabilities that add up to 1

If  $n = 1$  then  $HC = H$  (both are zero).

If  $n > 1$  then  $p_1 = p_2 = 2^{-k}$  for some  $k$ , otherwise the sum cannot add up to 1.

Combine the first two symbols into a new symbol of probability  $2^{-k} + 2^{-k} = 2^{-k+1}$ .

# Powers of Two (Cont.)

By the induction hypothesis

$$\begin{aligned} \text{HC}(p_1 + p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n) &= H(p_1 + p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n) \\ &= -(p_1 + p_2) \log_2(p_1 + p_2) - \sum_{i=3}^n p_i \log_2(p_i) \\ &= -2^{-k+1} \log_2(2^{-k+1}) - \sum_{i=3}^n p_i \log_2(p_i) \\ &= -2^{-k+1} (\log_2(2^{-k}) + 1) - \sum_{i=3}^n p_i \log_2(p_i) \\ &= -2^{-k} \log_2(2^{-k}) - 2^{-k} \log_2(2^{-k}) - \sum_{i=3}^n p_i \log_2(p_i) - 2^{-k} - 2^{-k} \\ &= -\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2(p_i) - (p_1 + p_2) \\ &= H(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) - (p_1 + p_2) \end{aligned}$$



## Powers of Two (Cont.)

By the previous page,

$$HC(p_1 + p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n) = H(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) - (p_1 + p_2)$$

By the properties of Huffman trees (principle 3),

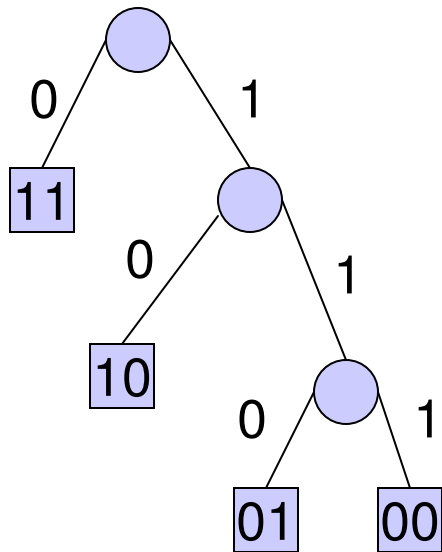
$$HC(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) = HC(p_1 + p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n) + (p_1 + p_2)$$

Hence,

$$HC(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) = H(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n)$$

# Extending the Alphabet

- Assuming independence  $P(ab) = P(a)P(b)$ , so we can lump symbols together.
- Example:  $P(0) = 1/100$ ,  $P(1) = 99/100$ 
  - $P(00) = 1/10000$ ,  $P(01) = P(10) = 99/10000$ ,  
 $P(11) = 9801/10000$ .



HC = 1.03 bits/symbol (2 bit symbol)  
= .515 bits/bit

Still not that close to  $H = .08$  bits/bit

# Quality of Extended Alphabet

- Suppose we extend the alphabet to symbols of length  $k$  then

$$H \leq HC \leq H + 1/k$$

- Pros and Cons of Extending the alphabet
  - + Better compression
  - $2^k$  symbols
  - padding needed to make the length of the input divisible by  $k$

# Huffman Codes with Context

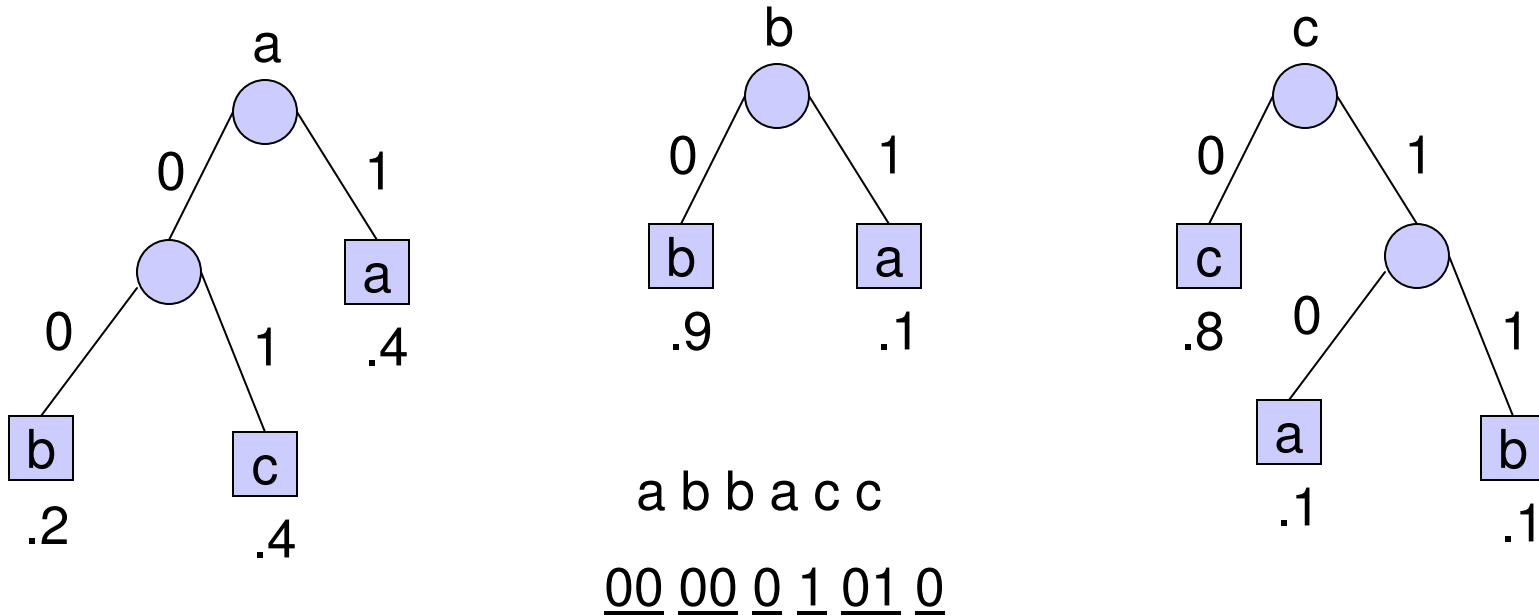
- Suppose we add a one symbol context. That is in compressing a string  $x_1x_2\dots x_n$  we want to take into account  $x_{k-1}$  when encoding  $x_k$ .
  - New model, so entropy based on just independent probabilities of the symbols doesn't hold. The new entropy model (2nd order entropy) has for each symbol a probability for each other symbol following it.
  - Example: {a,b,c}

		next		
		a	b	c
prev	a	.4	.2	.4
	b	.1	.9	0
	c	.1	.1	.8

# Multiple Codes

		next		
		a	b	c
prev	a	.4	.2	.4
	b	.1	.9	0
	c	.1	.1	.8

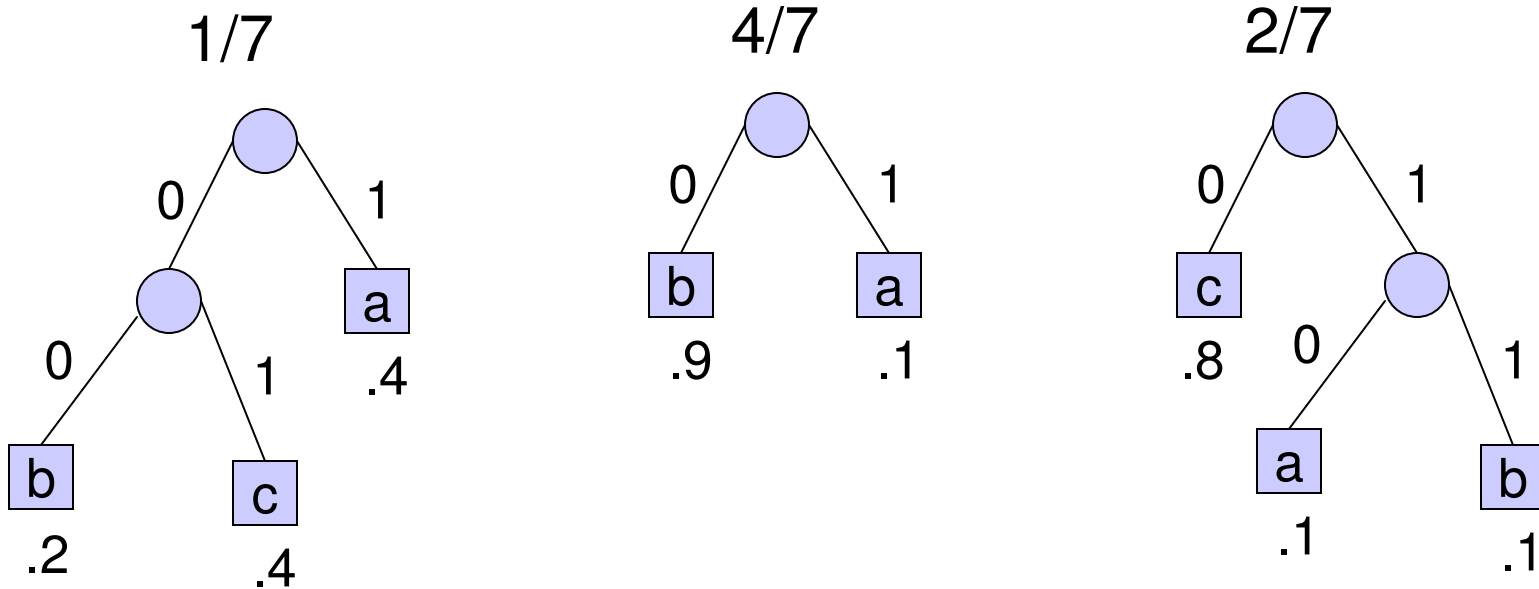
Code for first symbol	
a	00
b	01
c	10



## Average Bit Rate for Code

- $P(a) = .4 P(a) + .1 P(b) + .1 P(c)$   
 $P(b) = .2 P(a) + .9 P(b) + .1 P(c)$   
 $1 = P(a) + P(b) + P(c)$
- $0 = -.6 P(a) + .1 P(b) + .1 P(c)$   
 $0 = .2 P(a) - .1 P(b) + .1 P(c)$   
 $1 = P(a) + P(b) + P(c)$
- $P(a) = 1/7, P(b) = 4/7, P(c) = 2/7$

# Average Bit Rate for Code



$$\begin{aligned} \text{ABR} &= \frac{1}{7} (.6 \times 2 + .4) + \frac{4}{7} (1) + \frac{2}{7} (.2 \times 2 + .8) \\ &= \frac{8}{7} = 1.14 \text{ bps} \end{aligned}$$

# Complexity of Huffman Code Design

- Time to design Huffman Code is  $O(n \log n)$  where  $n$  is the number of symbols.
  - Each step consists of a constant number of priority queue operations (2 deletions and 1 insert)



# Approaches to Huffman Codes

1. Frequencies computed for each input
  - Must transmit the Huffman code or frequencies as well as the compressed input
  - Requires two passes
2. Fixed Huffman tree designed from training data
  - Do not have to transmit the Huffman tree because it is known to the decoder.
  - H.263 video coder
3. Adaptive Huffman code
  - One pass
  - Huffman tree changes as frequencies change

# Run-Length Coding

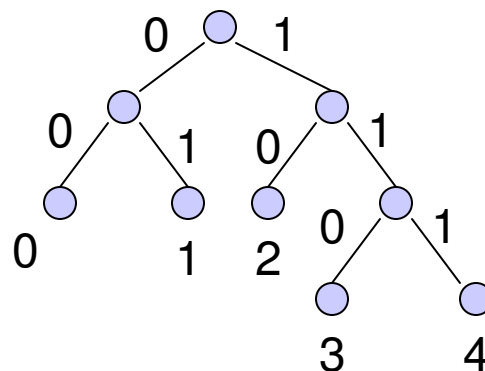
- Lots of 0's and not too many 1's.
  - Fax of letters
  - Graphics
- Simple run-length code
  - Input  
0000001000000000100000000010001001.....
  - Symbols  
6 9 10 3 2 ...
  - Code the bits as a sequence of integers
  - Problem: How long should the integers be?

# Golomb Code of Order m

## Variable Length Code for Integers

- Let  $n = qm + r$  where  $0 \leq r < m$ .
  - Divide  $m$  into  $n$  to get the quotient  $q$  and remainder  $r$ .
- Code for  $n$  has two parts:
  1.  $q$  is coded in unary
  2.  $r$  is coded as a fixed prefix code

Example:  $m = 5$



code for  $r$

# Example

- $n = qm + r$  is represented by:

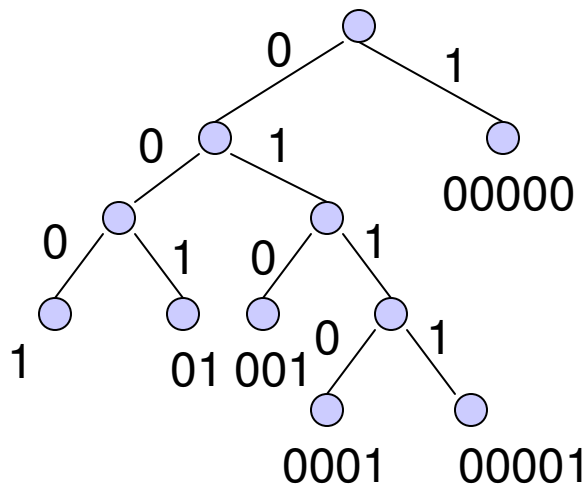
$$\overbrace{11 \cdots 10}^q \hat{r}$$

– where  $\hat{r}$  is the fixed prefix code for  $r$

- Example ( $m = 5$ ):

2	6	9	10	27
010	1001	10111	11000	11111010

# Alternative Explanation Golomb Code of order 5



input	output
00000	1
00001	0111
0001	0110
001	010
01	001
1	000

Variable length to variable length code.

# Run Length Example: $m = 5$

00000 01000000000100000000010001001.....

1

00000 01000000000100000000010001001.....

001

0000001 00000 00001000000000010001001.....

1

000000100000 00001 000000000010001001.....

0111

In this example we coded 17 bits in only 9 bits.

# Choosing m

- Suppose that 0 has the probability p and 1 has probability 1-p.
- The probability of  $0^n1$  is  $p^n(1-p)$ . The Golomb code of order

$$m = \left\lceil \frac{-1}{\log_2 p} \right\rceil$$

is optimal.

- Example:  $p = 127/128$ .

$$m = \left\lceil \frac{-1}{\log_2 (127/128)} \right\rceil = 89$$

# Average Bit Rate for Golomb Code

$$\text{Average Bit Rate} = \frac{\text{Average output code length}}{\text{Average input code length}}$$

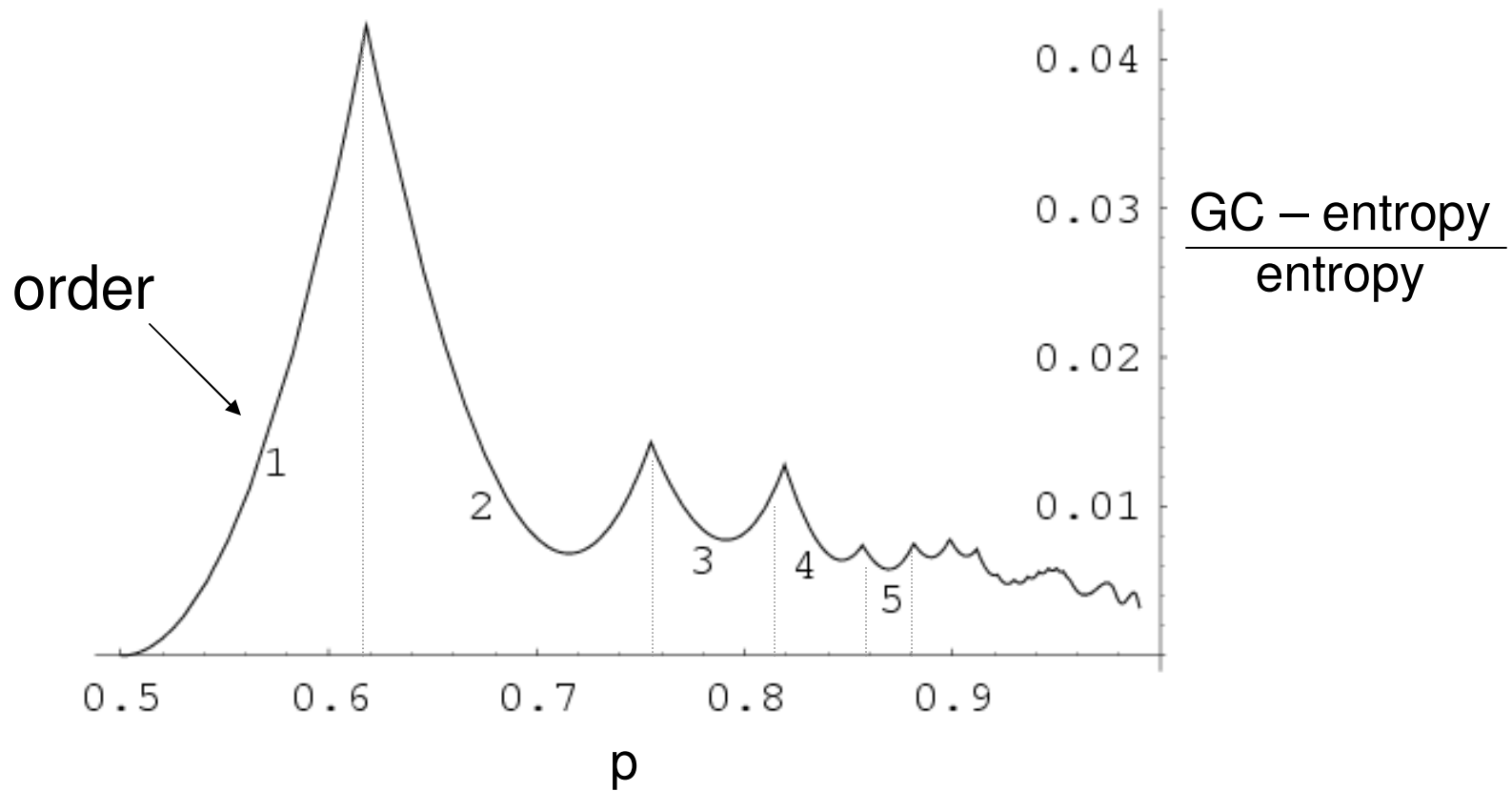
- $m = 4$  as an example. With  $p$  as the probability of 0.

$$\text{ABR} = \frac{p^4 + 3p^3(1-p) + 3p^2(1-p) + 3p(1-p) + 3(1-p)}{4p^4 + 4p^3(1-p) + 3p^2(1-p) + 2p(1-p) + (1-p)}$$

output	1	011	010	001	000
input	0000	0001	001	01	1
weight	$p^4$	$p^3(1-p)$	$p^2(1-p)$	$p(1-p)$	$1-p$



# Comparison of GC with Entropy



# Notes on Golomb codes

- Useful for binary compression when one symbol is much more likely than another.
  - binary images
  - fax documents
  - bit planes for wavelet image compression
- Need a parameter (the order)
  - training
  - adaptively learn the right parameter
- Variable-to-variable length code
- Last symbol needs to be a 1
  - coder always adds a 1
  - decoder always removes a 1

# Tunstall Codes

- Variable-to-fixed length code
- Example

input	output
a	000
b	001
ca	010
cb	011
cca	100
ccb	101
ccc	110

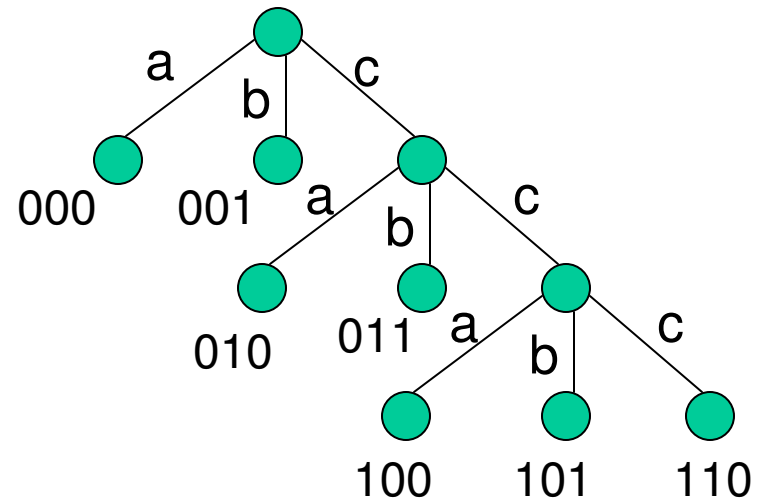
a b cca cb ccc ...  
000 001 110 011 110 ...

# Tunstall code Properties

1. No input code is a prefix of another to assure unique encodability.
2. Minimize the number of bits per symbol.

# Prefix Code Property

a	000
b	001
ca	010
cb	011
cca	100
ccb	101
ccc	110



Unused output code is 111.

## Use for unused code

- Consider the string “cc”, if it occurs at the end of the data. It does not have a code.
- Send the unused code and some fixed code for the cc.
- Generally, if there are  $k$  internal nodes in the prefix tree then there is a need for  $k-1$  fixed codes.

# Designing a Tunstall Code

- Suppose there are  $m$  initial symbols.
- Choose a target output length  $n$  where  $2^n > m$ .

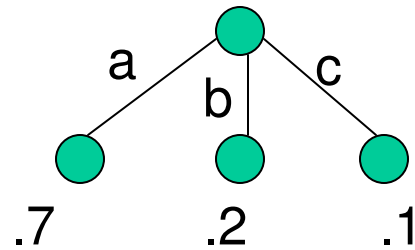
1. Form a tree with a root and  $m$  children with edges labeled with the symbols.
2. If the number of leaves is  $> 2^n - m$  then halt.\*
3. Find the leaf with highest probability and expand it to have  $m$  children.\*\* Go to 2.

\* In the next step we will add  $m-1$  more leaves.

\*\* The probability is the product of the probabilities of the symbols on the root to leaf path.

# Example

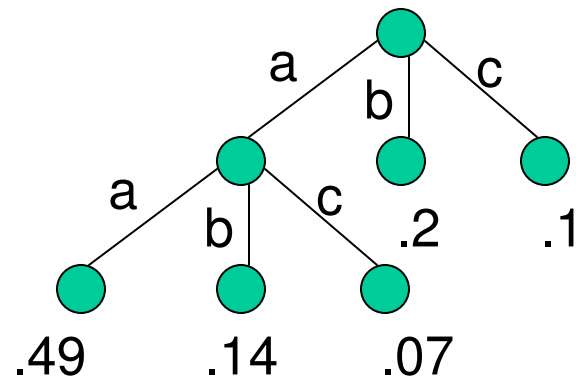
- $P(a) = .7$ ,  $P(b) = .2$ ,  $P(c) = .1$
- $n = 3$





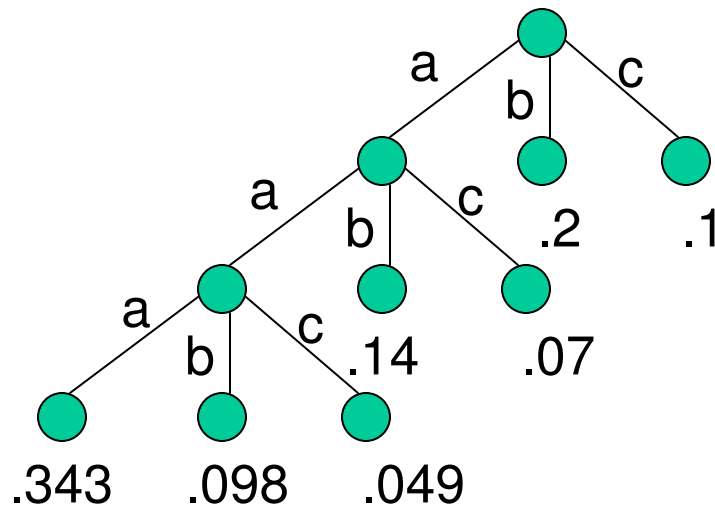
# Example

- $P(a) = .7$ ,  $P(b) = .2$ ,  $P(c) = .1$
- $n = 3$



# Example

- $P(a) = .7, P(b) = .2, P(c) = .1$
- $n = 3$



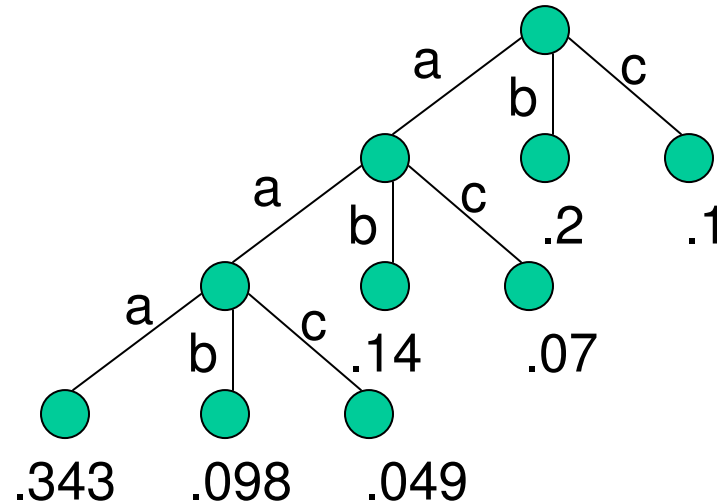
aaa	000
aab	001
aac	010
ab	011
ac	100
b	101
c	110

## Bit Rate of Tunstall

- The length of the output code divided by the average length of the input code.
- Let  $p_i$  be the probability of, and  $r_i$  the length of input code  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ) and let  $n$  be the length of the output code.

$$\text{Average bit rate} = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^s p_i r_i}$$

# Example



aaa	.343	000
aab	.098	001
aac	.049	010
ab	.14	011
ac	.07	100
b	.2	101
c	.1	110

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ABR} &= 3/[3 (.343 + .098 + .049) + 2 (.14 + .07) + .2 + .1] \\ &= 1.37 \text{ bits per symbol} \\ \text{Entropy} &= 1.16 \text{ bits per symbol} \end{aligned}$$

# Notes on Tunstall Codes

- Variable-to-fixed length code
- Error resilient
  - A flipped bit will introduce just one error in the output
  - Huffman is not error resilient. A single bit flip can destroy the code.