

What is Information?



The word information comes from the Latin *informare* meaning “give form to”. The Oxford definition, *Knowledge communicated concerning some particular fact, subject or event; connects the word to both knowledge and communication.*

At the physical fundamental level is the science of information theory, which defines **information** as *a quantitative measure of communicative exchanges irrespective of the context or meaning.*

$$I(X;Y) = H(Y) - H(Y|X)$$

$$H(X) = \sum p_i \log_2 (1/p_i)$$

Whatever your own concepts are, there is no doubt that most of us are *swimming in a flow of information that is increasing at an exponential rate.*

How can we best capture useful knowledge from this flow and make better informed decisions? How might elements of space, time, semantics, structure, and context be assimilated into a scientific understanding of information?

At the Center for Science of Information, our mission is to attempt to answer these questions ... come join the discussion! <http://www.soihub.org>



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