surprisal, *s*

A function relating the prior distribution P_0 of product states to an observed or calculated product distribution P. It is defined by:

$$s = -\ln\left(\frac{P}{P_0}\right).$$

Source:
PAC, 1996, *68*, 149 *(A glossary of terms used in chemical kinetics, including reaction dynamics (IUPAC Recommendations 1996))* on page 188