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**David Richeson** and **Jim Wiseman\*** ([jwiseman@agnesscott.edu](mailto:jwiseman@agnesscott.edu)), Agnes Scott College, Dept. of Mathematics, 141 E. College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030. *Ambiguous shifts: symbolic dynamics from open covers.*

We consider shifts in which elements of the alphabet may overlap nontransitively. Such shifts arise as models for discrete dynamical systems on spaces covered by a finite collection of open sets, in which case an orbit's itinerary may be ambiguously defined. We define a notion of entropy for ambiguous shifts, and show that it is equal to a limit of entropies of (standard) full shifts and gives a lower bound for the topological entropy of the original dynamical system. (Received September 22, 2011)