

# Jeffreys prior for Poisson model

Jeffreys prior:  $\pi_j(\theta) = \sqrt{I(\theta)}$

with  $I(\theta) = -E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln L(\theta|x)}{\partial \theta^2}\right]$  (Fisher inform. of the sample)

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln L(\theta|x)}{\partial \theta^2} = -\sum_{i=1}^n x_i / \theta^2$$

and we note that  $E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right] = E[n\bar{x}] = nE[\bar{x}] = n\theta$

So we have that:

$$I(\theta) = E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right] / \theta^2$$

$$= n\theta / \theta^2$$

$$= n / \theta$$

$$\propto \theta^{-1}$$

(Fisher information for 1 observation)

So  $\pi_j(\theta) = \sqrt{I(\theta)} \propto \theta^{-1/2}$

$$\sim \text{Gamma}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 0\right)$$

Reference: Monte Carlo Statistical Methods;  
Robert, Casella; 2004.