

# Homework 5

STA-360-602

Total points: 3 (reproducibility) + 15 (Q1) + 25 (Q2) = 50 points.

1. (15 points, 5 points each) Hoff, 3.12 (Jeffrey's prior).

Jeffrey's (1961) suggested a default rule for generating a prior distribution of a parameter  $\theta$  in a sampling model  $p(y | \theta)$ . Jeffreys' prior is given by

$$p_J(\theta) \propto \sqrt{I(\theta)},$$

where

$$I(\theta) = -E \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \log p(Y | \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} | \theta \right]$$

is the Fisher information.

- (a) Let  $Y \sim \text{Binomial}(n, \theta)$ . Show that  $p_J(\theta) \propto \text{Beta}(1/2, 1/2)$ .  
(b) Re-parameterize the model in part a such that  $\psi = \log[\theta/(1 - \theta)]$ . This implies that  $p(y | \psi) = \binom{n}{y} e^{\psi y} (1 + e^\psi)^{-n}$ . Show that

$$p_J(\psi) \propto \frac{n^{1/2} e^{\psi/2}}{1 + e^\psi} \propto \frac{e^{\psi/2}}{1 + e^\psi}.$$

- (c) Take the prior distribution from (a) and apply the change of variables formula from exercise 3.10 (see Homework 4) to obtain the induced prior density on  $\psi$ . This density should be the same as the one derived in part b) of this exercise. This consistency under re-parametrization is the defining characteristic of Jeffereys' prior.

2. Lab component (25 points total) Please refer to lab 5 and complete tasks 4—5.

- (a) (10 points) Task 4  
(b) (15 points) Task 5

**You can refer to class notes to help you check your answers. See Module 5, slides 44 - 51**