

The Fisher Information measures the information in  $X$  about  $\theta$ .

Let  $X \sim \text{Binom}(n; \theta)$  Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 X \sim \text{Binom}(n; \theta) &= \binom{n}{x} \theta^x (1 - \theta)^{n-x} \\
 l(\theta; x) &= \ln \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} + x \ln \theta + (n-x) \ln(1-\theta) \\
 l'(\theta; x) &= \frac{x}{\theta} - \frac{n-x}{1-\theta} \\
 l''(\theta; x) &= \frac{-x}{\theta^2} - \frac{n-x}{(1-\theta)^2} \\
 I(\theta) &= \mathbb{E}_x[-l''(\theta; x)] \\
 &= \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{x}{\theta^2} + \frac{n-x}{(1-\theta)^2}\right] \\
 &= \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{\theta^2} + \frac{n - \mathbb{E}[X]}{(1-\theta)^2} \\
 &= \frac{n\theta}{\theta^2} + \frac{n - n\theta}{(1-\theta)^2} \\
 &= n\left(\frac{1}{\theta} + \frac{1}{1-\theta}\right) \\
 &= n \frac{1}{\theta(1-\theta)}
 \end{aligned}$$

The Fisher information for the Binomial distribution is  $n \frac{1}{\theta(1-\theta)}$ .

For example, if  $X \sim \text{Binom}(1, 0.5)$ ,  $I(\theta) = 4$ ; if  $X \sim \text{Binom}(1, 0.01)$ ,  $I(\theta) = 101.01$ .

Given  $\mathcal{F} = \mathbb{P}(X | \theta)$ , pick  $\mathbb{P}(\phi)$  where  $\phi = t(\theta)$  and  $t$  is 1-1 and smooth.

$$\mathbb{P}(X | \theta) \xrightarrow{\text{pick}} \mathbb{P}(\theta) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P}(X | \phi) \xrightarrow{\text{pick}} \mathbb{P}(\phi)$$

But we want  $\mathbb{P}(\theta)$  and  $\mathbb{P}(\phi)$  to be related via change of variables.

Jeffrey's Prior:  $\mathbb{P}(\theta) \propto \sqrt{I(\theta)}$

Let  $X \sim \text{Binom}(n, \theta)$  Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{P}(\theta) &\propto \sqrt{n \left( \frac{1}{\theta(1-\theta)} \right)} \\
 &\propto \frac{1}{\theta(1-\theta)} \\
 &= \theta^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1-\theta)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &\propto \text{Beta}\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\underbrace{B\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)}} \pi \theta^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1-\theta)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi \sqrt{\theta(1-\theta)}}
 \end{aligned}$$

This is the arcsin distribution. It is equidistant from  $\text{Beta}(0,0)$  and  $\text{Beta}(1,1)$ . It is also called Jeffrey's prior (uninformative).

$$\mathbb{P}(X | \theta) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\theta) = \frac{1}{\pi \sqrt{\theta(1-\theta)}}$$

Recall that  $R = t(\theta) = \frac{\theta}{1-\theta}$  and  $\theta = t^{-1}(R) = \frac{R}{R+1}$ .

Let  $X \sim \text{Binom}(n, \theta)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{P}(X | R) &= \binom{n}{x} \left( \frac{R}{R+1} \right)^x \underbrace{\left( 1 - \frac{R}{R+1} \right)^{n-x}}_{\frac{1}{R+1}} \\
 &= \binom{n}{x} \frac{R^x}{(R+1)^n} \\
 l(X; R) &= \ln \binom{n}{x} + x \ln R - n \ln(R+1) \\
 l'(X; R) &= \frac{X}{R} - \frac{n}{R+1} \\
 l''(X; R) &= -\frac{X}{R^2} + \frac{n}{(R+1)^2} \\
 I(R) &= \mathbb{E}[-l''(X; R)] = \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{X}{R^2} - \frac{n}{(R+1)^2}\right] \\
 &= \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{R^2} - \frac{n}{(R+1)^2} \\
 &= \frac{n \frac{R}{R+1}}{R^2} - \frac{n}{(R+1)^2} \\
 &= n \left( \frac{1}{R(R+1)} + \frac{1}{(R+1)^2} \right) \\
 &= n \frac{1}{R(R+1)^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\mathbb{P}(R) \propto \sqrt{n} R(R+1)^2 \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{R}} \frac{1}{R+1} \propto \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{R}} \frac{1}{R+1} = \mathbb{P}(\phi)$$

By change of variables,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_R(R) &= \mathbb{P}_\theta(t^{-1}(R)) \left| \frac{d}{dr}[t^{-1}(R)] \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left( \frac{R}{R+1} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left( \frac{1}{R+1} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{(R+1)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} R^{-\frac{1}{2}} (R+1) \frac{1}{(R+1)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{R}} \frac{1}{R+1} \end{aligned}$$

General Case: Given  $\mathbb{P}(X | \theta)$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(X | \phi)$ , and that

$$\mathbb{P}(\theta) \propto \sqrt{I(\theta)}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(\phi) \propto \sqrt{I(\phi)}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\phi) &= \mathbb{P}_\theta(\underbrace{t^{-1}(\phi)}_\theta) \left| \frac{d}{d\phi} t^{-1}(\phi) \right| \propto \sqrt{I(\phi)} \\ &= \mathbb{P}_\theta(\theta) \left| \frac{d\theta}{d\phi} \right| \\ &\propto \sqrt{I(\theta)} \left| \frac{d\theta}{d\phi} \right| \\ &= \sqrt{I(\theta) \frac{d\theta}{d\phi} \frac{d\theta}{d\phi}} \\ &= \sqrt{E[s(\theta; X)^2] \frac{d\theta}{d\phi} \frac{d\theta}{d\phi}} \\ &= \sqrt{E\left[\frac{dl}{d\theta} \frac{dl}{d\theta} \frac{d\theta}{d\phi} \frac{d\theta}{d\phi}\right]} \\ &= \sqrt{E\left[\left(\frac{dl}{dt}\right)^2\right]} \\ &= \sqrt{E[s(\phi; X)^2]} \\ &= \sqrt{I(\phi)} \end{aligned}$$

A baseball player's true batting average is given as follows:

$$\hat{\theta} = BA := \frac{\# \text{ hits}}{\# \text{ at bats}} = \frac{x}{n} = \hat{\theta}_{\text{MLE}}$$

Say  $\#$  of hits  $\propto \text{Binom}(\# \text{ bats}, \theta)$ . For  $n = 2$ , if  $x = 0$ , then  $BA = 0$ . If  $x = 1$ ,  $BA = \frac{1}{2}$ . If  $x = 2$ ,  $BA = 1$ . This is absurd. Thus let's use  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$  to shrink. Fix a beta to the

prior data. Let's say  $\hat{\alpha}_{\text{MLE}} = 78.7$  and  $\hat{\beta}_{\text{MLE}} = 224.8$ . Then  $\hat{\alpha} + \hat{\beta} = 303.5$  which is strong. It also follows that  $\hat{\theta}_{\text{MMSE}} = \frac{x+\alpha}{n+\alpha+\beta} = \frac{x+78.7}{n+303.5}$ . For  $n$  large, use this estimation. This is called Empirical Bayes.

Steps

1. Get all data.
2. Fit prior to all data using MLE.
3. Use this fit's hyperparameters for inference.

Let  $\mathcal{F} = \text{Geometric}$ . Then  $X|\theta \sim (1-\theta)^x\theta$  where  $X$  is number of failures.  $\text{Supp}[X] = \{0, 1, \dots\}$ .  $\Theta = (0, 1)$  and  $E[X] = \frac{1}{\theta} - 1$ . If  $\theta$  is large, then  $x$  is small; if  $\theta$  is small, then  $x$  is large. Let's say  $X_1 \sim \theta_1, \dots, X_n \sim \theta_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Geom}(\theta)$ . Then

$$\mathbb{P}(X | \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - \theta_i)^n \theta_i = (1 - \theta)^{\sum x_i} \theta^n$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\theta | X) &\propto \mathbb{P}(X | \theta) \mathbb{P}(\theta) \\ &= \underbrace{(1 - \theta)^{\sum x_i} \theta^n}_{\text{kernel of beta}} \mathbb{P}(\theta) \\ &\propto \theta^n (1 - \theta)^{\sum x_i} \theta^{\alpha-1} (1 - \theta)^{\beta-1} \\ &= \theta^{n+\alpha-1} (1 - \theta)^{\sum x_i + \beta - 1} \\ &= \text{Beta}(n + \alpha, \sum x_i + \beta) \end{aligned}$$

This is done using  $\mathbb{P}(\theta) = \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$ . What we found here is that beta is also the conjugate prior for the geometric random variable.

If  $X_1|\theta, \dots, X_n|\theta \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Geom}(\theta)$  and  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(\overbrace{\alpha, \beta}^{\text{hyperparameters}})$ , then

$$\theta|X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{Beta}(\underbrace{n + \alpha}_{\alpha'}, \underbrace{\sum x_i + \beta}_{\beta'})$$

Furthermore

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\theta}_{\text{MMSE}} &= \frac{n + \alpha}{n + \alpha + \sum x_i + \beta} \\ \hat{\theta}_{\text{MAE}} &= \text{qbeta}(0.5, n + \alpha, \sum x_i + \beta) \\ \hat{\theta}_{\text{MAP}} &= \frac{n + \alpha - 1}{n + \alpha + \sum x_i + \beta - 2} \end{aligned}$$

$\alpha$  = pseudo number of trials,  $\beta$  = seen total number of failures. If  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(0, 0)$ , Haldane, where  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta = 0$ , this is complete ignorance. If  $\theta \sim U(0, 1) = \text{Beta}(1, 1)$ , Laplace,

where  $\alpha = 1$  and  $\beta = 1$ , this is indifference prior which gives no special preference. What's Jeffrey's prior?

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}(\theta; X) &= (1 - \theta)^{\sum x_i} \theta^n \\
 l(\theta; X) &= \sum x_i \ln(1 - \theta) + n \ln \theta \\
 l'(\theta; X) &= -\frac{\sum x_i}{1 - \theta} + \frac{n}{\theta} \\
 l''(\theta; X) &= -\frac{\sum x_i}{(1 - \theta)^2} - \frac{n}{\theta^2} \\
 I(\theta) &= E[-l''(\theta; X)] = E\left[\frac{\sum x_i}{(1 - \theta)^2} + \frac{n}{\theta^2}\right] \\
 &= \frac{E[x_i]}{(1 - \theta)^2} + \frac{n}{\theta^2} \\
 &= \frac{nE[X]}{(1 - \theta)^2} + \frac{n}{\theta^2} \\
 &= n\left(\frac{\frac{1}{\theta} - 1}{(1 - \theta)^2} + \frac{1}{\theta^2}\right) \\
 &= n\left(\frac{\frac{1 - \theta}{\theta}}{(1 - \theta)^2} + \frac{1}{\theta^2}\right) \\
 &= n\left(\frac{1}{\theta(1 - \theta)} + \frac{1}{\theta^2}\right) \\
 &= n\left(\frac{1}{\theta^2(1 - \theta)}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\mathbb{P}(\theta) \propto \sqrt{I(\theta)} = \sqrt{n \frac{1}{\theta^2(1 - \theta)}} \propto \theta^{-1}(1 - \theta)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \propto \text{Beta}(0, \frac{1}{2})$$

Jeffrey's prior is  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(0, \frac{1}{2})$ , with  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta = \frac{1}{2}$ . This is an improper prior and similar to Wilson's estimate.