

PART IV

CASE STUDIES

Fisher and Jeffreys were occupied with very different problems. Fisher studied biological problems, where one had no prior information and no guiding theory . . . , and the data taking was very much like drawing from Bernoulli's urn. Jeffreys studied problems of geophysics, where one had a great deal of cogent prior information and a highly developed guiding theory . . . , and the data taking procedure had no resemblance to drawing from an urn . . . As science progressed to more and more complicated problems of inference, the shortcomings of the orthodox methods have become more and more troublesome . . . Scientists, engineers, biologists, and economists with good Bayesian training are now finding for themselves the correct solutions appropriate for their problems, which can adapt effortlessly to many kinds of prior information, thus achieving a flexibility unknown in orthodox statistics.

Jaynes, 2003, pp. 496–497

