

Exercise B

Let Y be a random variable with negative binomial distribution, with $\tilde{\pi} \in (0, 1)$ and $Y \in S = \{k, k+1, \dots\}$, so that

$$p(y; \tilde{\pi}) = \binom{y-1}{k-1} \tilde{\pi}^k (1-\tilde{\pi})^{y-k}, \quad y = k, k+1, \dots$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} p(y; \tilde{\pi}) &= \left(\frac{\tilde{\pi}}{1-\tilde{\pi}} \right)^k (1-\tilde{\pi})^y \binom{y-1}{k-1} \\ &= \exp \left\{ \underbrace{y \log(1-\tilde{\pi})}_{=\theta} + k \log \left(\frac{\tilde{\pi}}{1-\tilde{\pi}} \right) + \underbrace{\log \binom{y-1}{k-1}}_{=c(y)} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \boxed{\theta = \log(1-\tilde{\pi})} &\Rightarrow 1-\tilde{\pi} = e^\theta \Rightarrow \tilde{\pi} = 1 - e^\theta \\ \Rightarrow k \log \left(\frac{\tilde{\pi}}{1-\tilde{\pi}} \right) &= k \log \left(\frac{1-e^\theta}{e^\theta} \right) = -\log \left(\frac{e^\theta}{1-e^\theta} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Summarising, we obtain

$$\theta = \log(1-\tilde{\pi}), \quad a(\phi) = 1, \quad b(\theta) = \log \left(\frac{e^\theta}{1-e^\theta} \right), \quad c(y) = \log \binom{y-1}{k-1}.$$

Mean function

$$b'(\theta) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} k \log \left(\frac{e^\theta}{1-e^\theta} \right) = k \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \theta + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} -k \log(1-e^\theta) = k + \frac{k e^\theta}{1-e^\theta}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mu(\theta) &= \frac{k}{1-e^\theta} = \frac{k}{\tilde{\pi}} \\ &= k \frac{1-e^\theta + e^\theta}{1-e^\theta} = \frac{k}{1-e^\theta} \\ &= \frac{k}{\tilde{\pi}} = \mu. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we get

$$1 - e^{\theta} = \frac{\kappa}{\mu} \Leftrightarrow e^{\theta} = 1 - \frac{\kappa}{\mu} = \frac{\mu - \kappa}{\mu} \Rightarrow \theta(\mu) = \log\left(\frac{\mu - \kappa}{\mu}\right) \quad (\text{Canonical link})$$

Variance function

$$\begin{aligned} b''(\theta) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \frac{\kappa}{1 - e^{\theta}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \kappa (1 - e^{\theta})^{-1} = \kappa [-(1 - e^{\theta})^{-2}] (-e^{\theta}) \\ &= \kappa \frac{e^{\theta}}{(1 - e^{\theta})^2} = \kappa \frac{1 - \tilde{\eta}}{\tilde{\eta}^2} \quad (\text{see above}) \\ \Rightarrow \text{var}(y) &= a(\phi) b''(\theta) = \kappa \frac{(1 - \tilde{\eta})}{\tilde{\eta}^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(y) &= \underbrace{\frac{\kappa}{\mu}}_{\mu'} \cdot \frac{\kappa}{\tilde{\eta}} \cdot \frac{1}{\kappa} (1 - \tilde{\eta}) = \left(\frac{\kappa}{\mu}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{\kappa} - \frac{\tilde{\eta}}{\kappa}\right) = \mu^2 \left(\frac{1}{\kappa} - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) = \frac{\mu^2}{\kappa} - \mu \\ &= v(\mu). \end{aligned}$$

If κ were unknown, then this is not anymore an exponential family.