

Discussion Points for Prior Distributions

1. Non-informative priors - call them:
 - non-informative
 - diffuse
 - reference
 - flat
 - low-information
 - Jeffries
2. Beta-Binomial case (Haldane? Jeffries? Uniform? Other?)
3. Normal mean: uniform \longrightarrow improper
4. Always do analyses from a “family of priors” (diffuse, clinical, optimistic, pessimistic, etc.)
5. Where do priors come from? (Past data? Meta-analysis? Past data adjusted? Expert opinion? “Automatic” choice such as optimistic and pessimistic as discussed by Spiegelhalter? Combination of all of the above?)
6. When does choice of prior make an important difference to inferences?
7. Are people generally good at prior elicitation (i.e., are they “well calibrated”)?
8. Elicitation of priors by decomposing a larger problem into smaller pieces.