

What do you believe about θ ?

$$P(0.49 < \theta < 0.51) = ?$$

The Beta distribution:

$$\text{Prior}(\theta) = p(\theta) = p(\theta \mid \alpha, \beta) = \theta^{\alpha-1} * (1-\theta)^{\beta-1} / B(\alpha, \beta)$$

Explore it in R using `rbeta(10^6, α , β)`.

`hist(rbeta(10^6, 1, 1), xlim=c(0,1))`

Let X = the number of heads and $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, \theta)$. Thus,

$$f(x \mid \theta) = \text{choose}(n, x) * \theta^x * (1-\theta)^{n-x}$$

Now that you've collected some data, i.e. you have an x value, how does your belief about θ change?

Apply Bayes Theorem to solve for $f(\theta \mid x)$.

$$f(\theta \mid x) = f(x \mid \theta) * p(\theta) / k_1 \quad \text{-- by Bayes theorem}$$

$$\text{where } k_1 = f(x) = \int_0^1 f(x \mid \theta) p(\theta) d\theta$$

Note for a given value of x , k_1 is just a constant.

$$f(\theta \mid x) = \theta^x * (1-\theta)^{n-x} * \theta^{\alpha-1} * (1-\theta)^{\beta-1} / k_2$$

where $k_2 = k_1 / \text{choose}(n, x)$. k_2 is still a constant for a given x .

$$f(\theta \mid x) = \theta^{\alpha-1+x} * (1-\theta)^{\beta-1+n-x} / k_2$$

We know the integral of $f(\theta \mid x)$ for θ from 0 to 1 must equal 1, so we can rewrite the constant as ... aha!

$$f(\theta \mid x) = \theta^{\alpha+x-1} * (1-\theta)^{\beta+n-x-1} / B(\alpha+x, \beta+n-x)$$

Try it:

$$\text{Prior}(\theta) = p(\theta) = p(\theta \mid \alpha, \beta) = \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$$

Let $\alpha=15$ and $\beta=15$

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hist( rbeta(10^6, 15, 15), xlim=c(0,1) )
```

Now observe some data. What does your belief look like now?

$$f(\theta \mid x) = \theta^{(\alpha+x-1)} * (1-\theta)^{(\beta+n-x-1)} / B(\alpha+x, \beta+n-x) \\ = \text{Beta}(\alpha+x, \beta+n-x)$$

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f = rbeta(10^6, 15+? , 15+? )
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hist( f, xlim=c(0,1) )
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The distribution graphically shows your full belief distribution. How could you summarize your updated belief about θ with a point estimate and an interval?

Can you answer the question $P(0.49 < \theta < 0.51) = ?$

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mean( 0.49 < f & f < 0.51 )
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Observe some more data. Now what do you believe?

What would it take to dramatically change your belief about θ ?