

Do's and Dont's with *Likelihoods*

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Topics

What it is

How it works: Resonance

Error estimates

Detailed example: Lifetime

Several Parameters

Extended maximum \mathcal{L}

Do's and Dont's with \mathcal{L}

DO'S AND DONT'S WITH \mathcal{L}

- NORMALISATION FOR LIKELIHOOD
- JUST QUOTE UPPER LIMIT
- $\Delta(\ln \mathcal{L}) = 0.5$ RULE
- \mathcal{L}_{\max} AND GOODNESS OF FIT
- $\int_{p_L}^{p_U} \mathcal{L} dp = 0.90$
- BAYESIAN SMEARING OF \mathcal{L}
- USE CORRECT \mathcal{L} (PUNZI EFFECT)

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

$$y = N \left(1 + \frac{b}{a} \cos^2 \theta \right)$$

$$y_i = N \left(1 + \frac{b}{a} \cos^2 \theta_i \right)$$

~ Probability density of observing θ_i , given b/a

$$\mathcal{L} \left(\frac{b}{a} \right) = \prod y_i$$

~ Probability of observing given set of θ_i
for that b/a

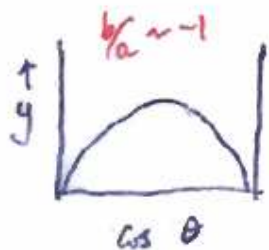
Best estimate of $\frac{b}{a}$ is that which
maximises \mathcal{L}

Precision of $\frac{b}{a}$ from width of \mathcal{L} distribution

CRUCIAL TO NORMALISE

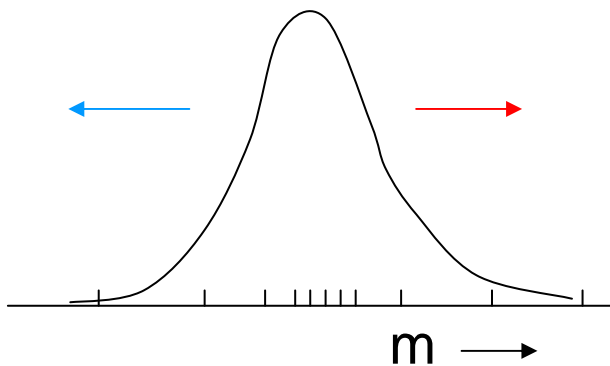
y

SHAPE DETERMINES
PARAMS

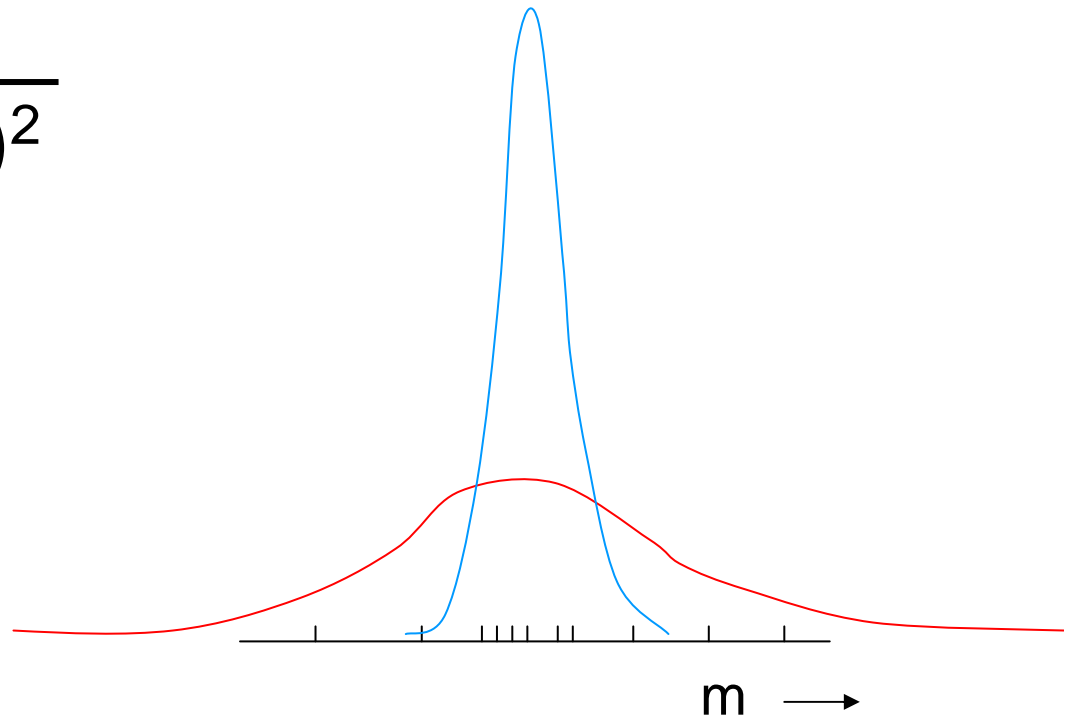


How it works: Resonance

$$y \sim \frac{\Gamma/2}{(m-M_0)^2 + (\Gamma/2)^2}$$



Vary M_0



Vary Γ

Conventional to consider

$$l = \ln(\mathcal{L}) = \sum \ln y_i$$

For large N , $\mathcal{L} \rightarrow$ Gaussian

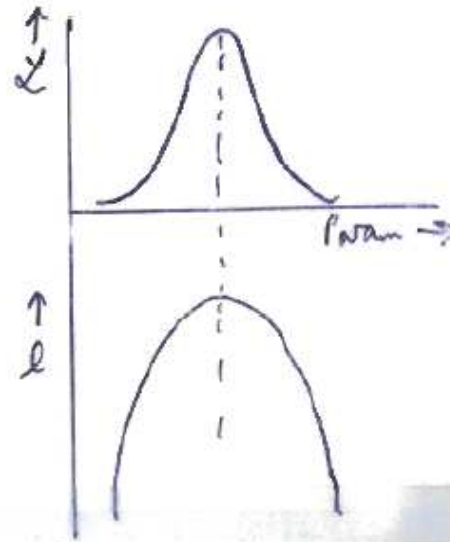
"Proof"

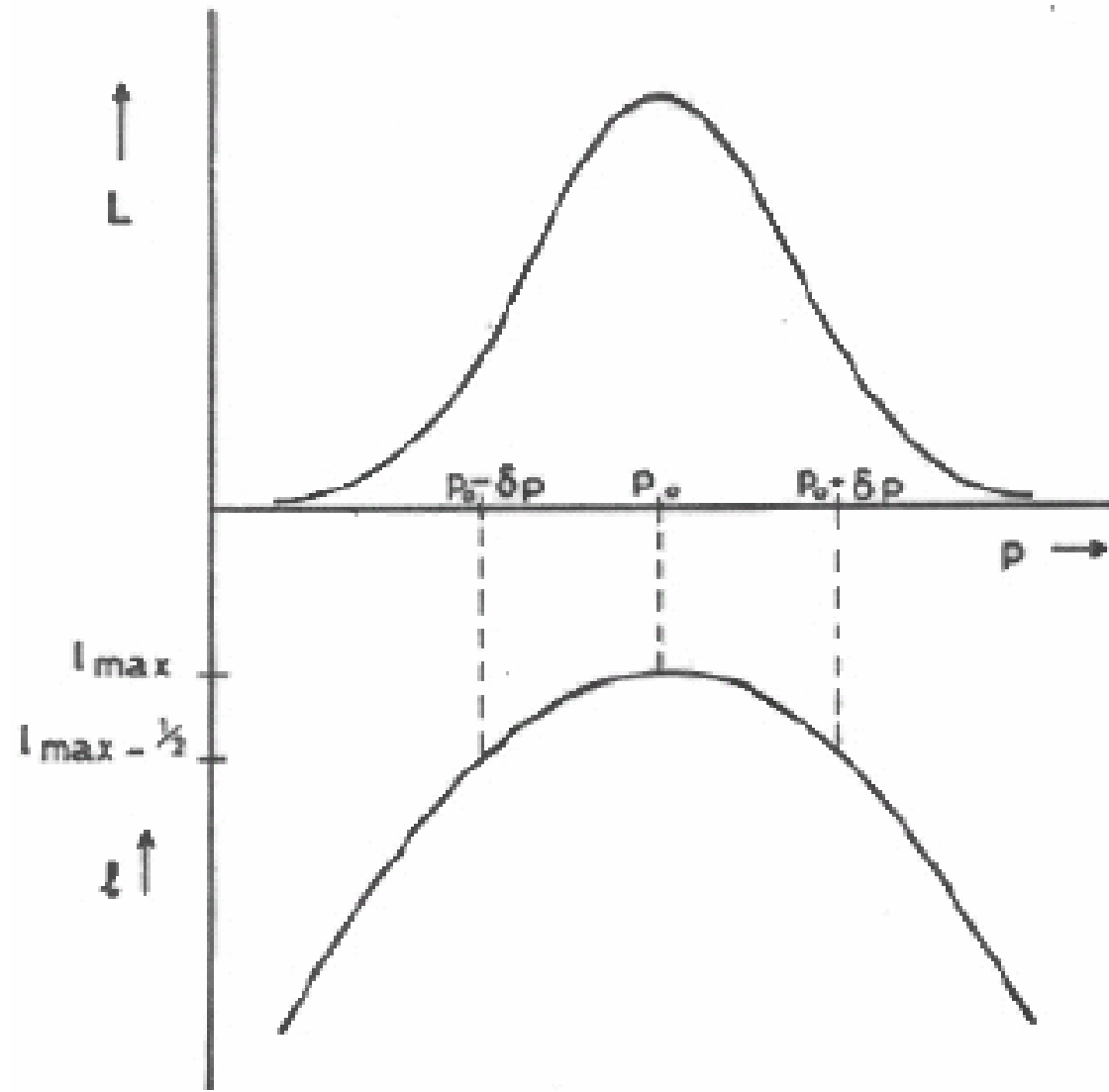
Taylor expand l about its maximum

$$l = l_{\max} + \frac{1}{2!} l'' \left[\delta \left(\frac{\theta}{a} \right) \right]^2 + \dots$$

$$= l_{\max} - \frac{1}{2c} \delta^2 + \dots \quad c = -1/l''$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L} \sim \exp \left(-\frac{\delta^2}{2c} \right)$$





Maximum likelihood error

Range of likely values of param μ from width of \mathcal{L} or 1 dists.

If $\mathcal{L}(\mu)$ is Gaussian, following definitions of σ are equivalent:

1) RMS of $\mathcal{L}(\mu)$

2) $1/\sqrt{-d^2\ln\mathcal{L} / d\mu^2}$ (Mnemonic)

3) $\ln(\mathcal{L}(\mu_0 \pm \sigma)) = \ln(\mathcal{L}(\mu_0)) - 1/2$

If $\mathcal{L}(\mu)$ is non-Gaussian, these are no longer the same

~~“Procedure 3) above still gives interval that contains the true value of parameter μ with 68% probability”~~

Errors from 3) usually asymmetric, and asym errors are messy.

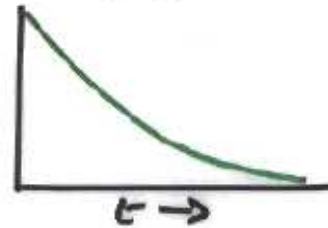
So choose param sensibly

e.g $1/p$ rather than p ; τ or λ

LIFETIME DETERMINATION

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-t/\tau}$$

↑ NORMALISATION



Observe t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N

Use pdf to construct

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod \left(\frac{dn}{dt} \right)_i = \prod \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-t_i/\tau}$$

$$\therefore \mathcal{L} = \sum_i (-t_i/\tau - \ln \tau)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \tau} = \sum_i \left(+t_i/\tau^2 - \frac{1}{\tau} \right) = 0 = \frac{\sum t_i}{\tau^2} - \frac{N}{\tau}$$

$$\Rightarrow \tau = \sum t_i / N = \bar{t}_i \quad \text{"Obvious"}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial \tau^2} = -\sum \frac{2t_i}{\tau^3} + \sum \frac{1}{\tau^2} = -2 \frac{N}{\tau^2} + \frac{N}{\tau^2} = -\frac{N}{\tau^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_\tau = 1 / \sqrt{-\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial \tau^2}} = \tau / \sqrt{N}$$

N.B. 1) Usual $1/\sqrt{N}$ behaviour

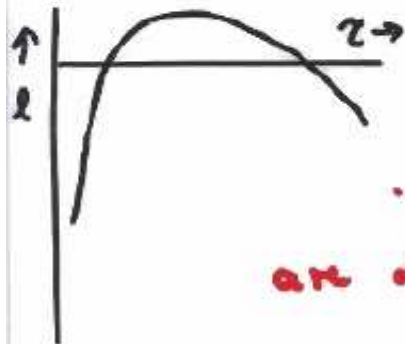
2) $\sigma_\tau \propto \tau_{est}$

BEWARE FOR AVERAGING RESULTS

$\ln \tau - \ln \tau_{max} = \text{Universal Fn of } \tau/\tau_{max}$

$$l(\tau) = \sum -t_i/\tau - N \ln \tau$$

$$l(\tau) - l(\tau_{max}) = -N\tau_{max}/\tau - N \ln \tau + N + N \ln \tau_{max}$$
$$= N \left[1 + \ln(\tau_{max}/\tau) - \tau_{max}/\tau \right]$$



\therefore For given N , σ_+ & σ_- are defined ($\sim \frac{\tau_{max}}{\sqrt{N}}$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$)

For small N , $\sigma_+ > \sigma_-$

— " —

$$l(\tau_{max}) = -N(1 + \ln \bar{E})$$

N.B. $l(\tau_{max})$ depends only on \bar{E} ,
but not on distribution of t_i

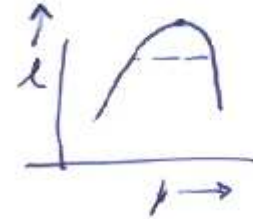
Relevant for whether l_{max} is useful for testing goodness of fit

Several Parameters

1 param p

$$p \text{ from } \frac{\partial l}{\partial p} = 0$$

$$\sigma_p^2 = 1 / \left(- \frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial p^2} \right)$$

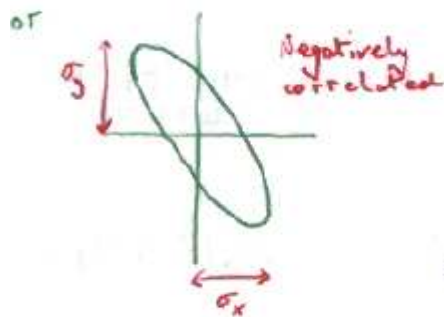
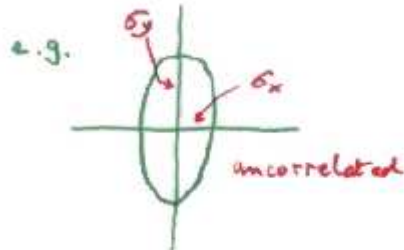


Many dimensions : $l(p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots)$

$$p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots \text{ from } \frac{\partial l}{\partial p_i} = 0$$

For errors, define $H_{ij} = - \frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial p_i \partial p_j} = \text{Inverse Error Matrix}$

$$\text{Error matrix } E_{ij} = (H^{-1})_{ij}$$



N.B. ERROR NOT GIVEN BY

$l = l_{\text{max}} - \frac{1}{2}$ WHEN VARYING x
FROM BEST VALUE WHILE
KEEPING y, \dots CONSTANT

ERROR IS GIVEN BY

$l = l_{\text{max}} - \frac{1}{2}$ WHEN VARYING x
FROM BEST VALUE WHILE \dots

EXTENDED MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

Maximum Likelihood uses shape \Rightarrow params

Extended Max Like uses shape + normalisation

i.e. EML uses prob of

1) observing sample size of N events

2) given distribution in X, \dots

\Rightarrow shape parameters + normalisation

Example 1:

Angular distributions

Observed	N events total	e.g.	100
	F forward		96
	B backward		4

Rate estimates	ML	EML
Total	—	100 ± 10
Forward	96 ± 2	96 ± 10
Backward	4 ± 2	4 ± 2

ML & EML

Maximum Likelihood uses fixed normalisation

Extended Max Like has normalisation as parameter

e.g.1. Decay of resonance

Use M.L. for Branching Ratios

Use EML for Partial Decay Rates

e.g.2 Cosmic ray experiment

See 96 protons & 4 heavy nuclei

M.L. estimate $96 \pm 2\%$ protons $4 \pm 2\%$ heavy

EML estimate 96 ± 10 protons 4 ± 2 heavy

2) Max Like

Prob for fixed $N = \text{Binomial}$

$$P_a = f^F (1-f)^B \frac{N!}{F! B!} \quad *$$
Part of forwards

Maximise $\ln P_a$ wrt $f \Rightarrow \hat{f} = F/N$

Error on \hat{f} : $1/\sigma^2 = - \frac{\partial^2 \ln P_a}{\partial f^2}$

$\approx \frac{N}{\hat{f}(1-\hat{f})} \quad f = \hat{f}$

\Rightarrow Estimate of $\hat{F} = NF = F \pm \sqrt{FB/N}$ ← Completely

----- $\hat{B} = N(1-f) = B \pm \sqrt{FB/N}$ ← anti-corr

b) EML

$P_b = P_a \times \frac{e^{-\nu} \nu^N}{N!}$

Expected overall rate

Poisson for overall rate

Maximise $\ln P_b(\nu, f)$

$\Rightarrow \hat{\nu} = N \pm \sqrt{N}$

$\hat{f} = \frac{F}{N} \pm \sqrt{\frac{F(1-f)}{N}}$

Uncorrelated

For \hat{F} & \hat{B} , either propagate errors for $\hat{F} = \hat{\nu} \hat{f}$
 $\hat{B} = \hat{\nu} (1-\hat{f})$

or rewrite eqn \neq as product of 2 indep Poissons

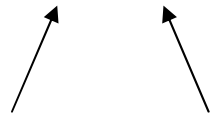
$$\left. \begin{aligned} \hat{F} &= F \pm \sqrt{F} \\ \hat{B} &= B \pm \sqrt{B} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

DO'S AND DONT'S WITH \mathcal{L}

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NORMALISATION FOR LIKELIHOOD

$$\int P(x | \mu) dx \quad \text{MUST be independent of } \mu$$



data param

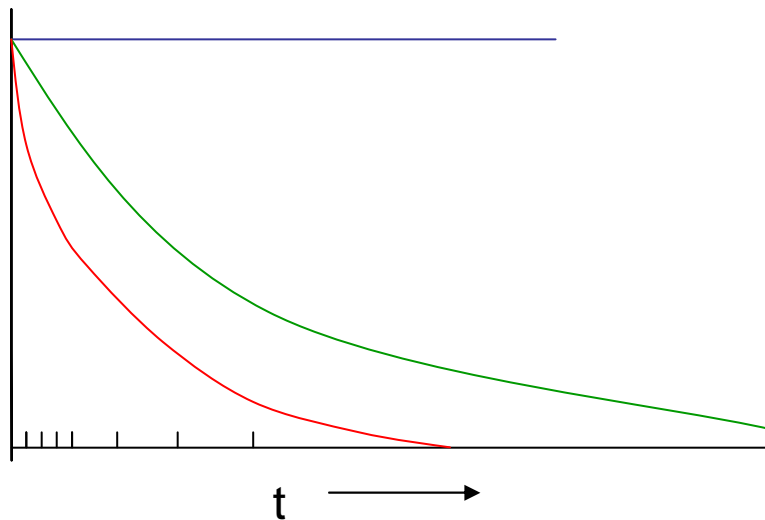
e.g. Lifetime fit to t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n

$$[\tau = \sum t_i / N]$$

INCORRECT

$$P(t | \tau) = e^{-t/\tau}$$

↑
Missing $1/\tau$



— $\tau = \infty$

— τ too big

— Reasonable τ

2) QUOTING UPPER LIMIT

“We observed no significant signal, and our 90% conf upper limit is”

Need to specify method e.g.

\mathcal{L}

Chi-squared (data or theory error)

Frequentist (Central or upper limit)

Feldman-Cousins

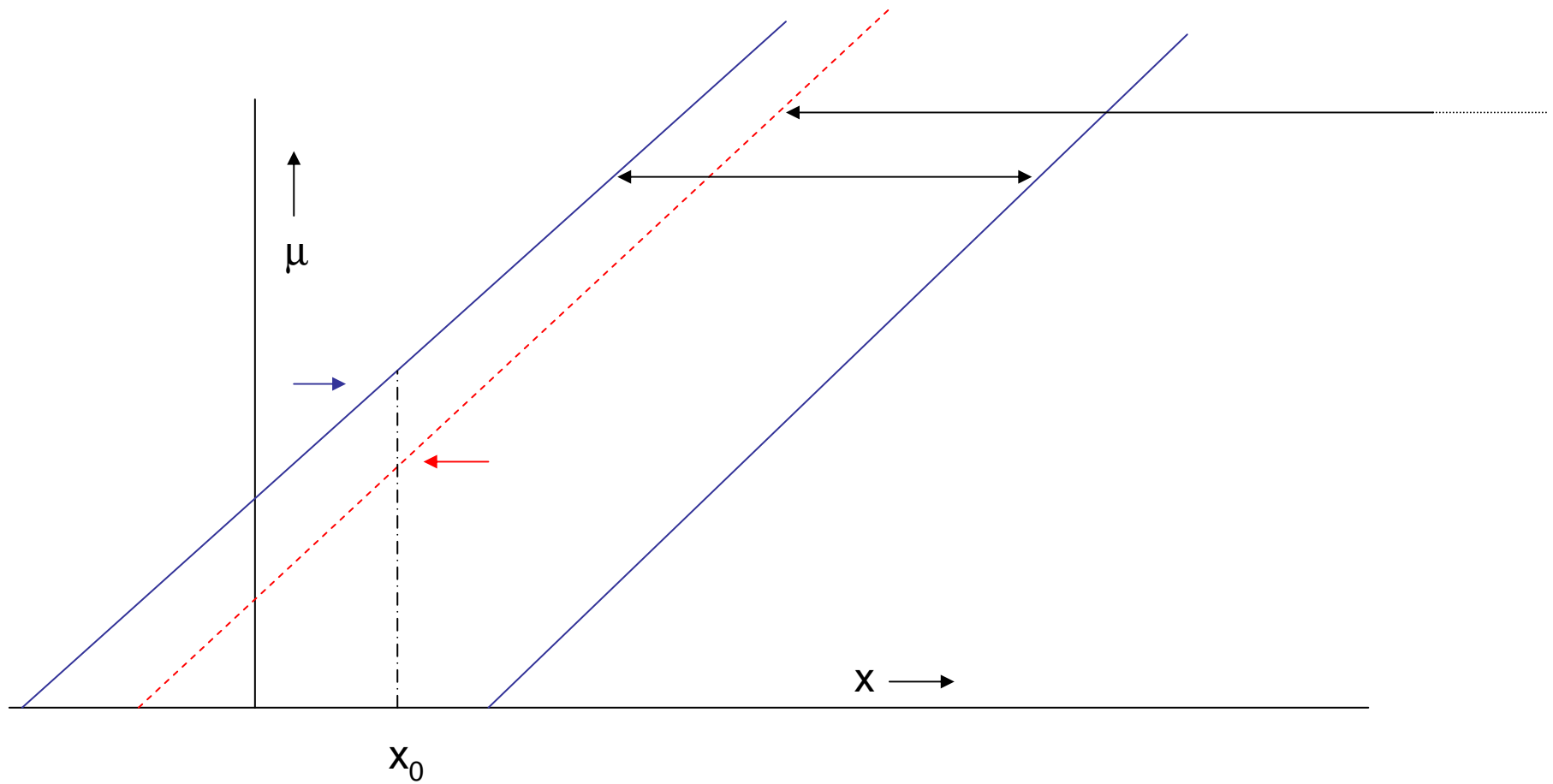
Bayes with prior = const, $1/\mu$ $1/\sqrt{\mu}$ μ etc

“Show your \mathcal{L} ”

1) Not always practical

2) Not sufficient for frequentist methods

90% C.L. Upper Limits



$\Delta \ln \mathcal{L} = -1/2$ rule

If $\mathcal{L}(\mu)$ is Gaussian, following definitions of σ are equivalent:

1) RMS of $\mathcal{L}(\mu)$

2) $1/\sqrt{-d^2\mathcal{L}/d\mu^2}$

3) $\ln(\mathcal{L}(\mu_0 \pm \sigma)) = \ln(\mathcal{L}(\mu_0)) - 1/2$

If $\mathcal{L}(\mu)$ is non-Gaussian, these are no longer the same

~~“Procedure 3) above still gives interval that contains the true value of parameter μ with 68% probability”~~

Heinrich: CDF note 6438 (see CDF Statistics Committee Web-page)

Barlow: Phystat05

COVERAGE

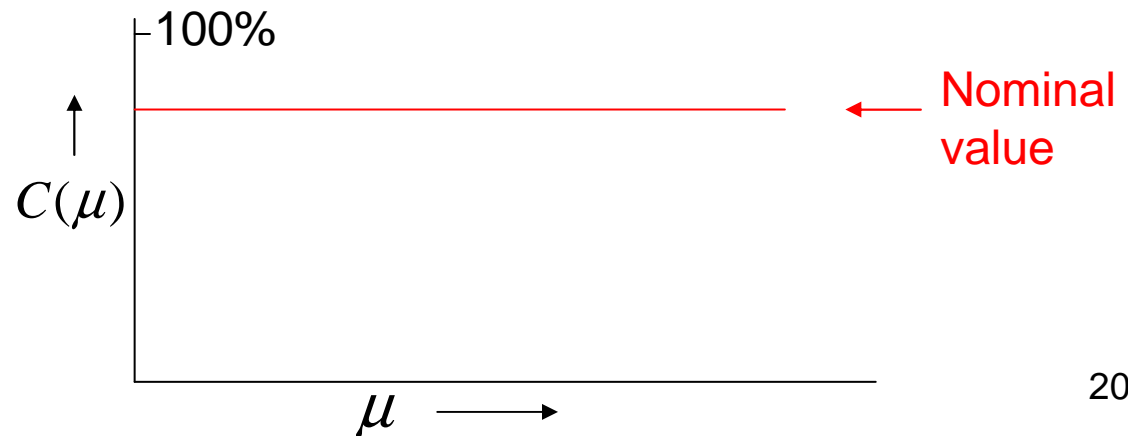
How often does quoted range for parameter include param's true value?

N.B. Coverage is a property of **METHOD**, not of a particular exptl result

Coverage can vary with μ

Study coverage of different methods of Poisson parameter μ , from observation of number of events n

Hope for:



COVERAGE

If true for all μ : “correct coverage”

$P < \alpha$ for some μ “undercoverage”
(this is serious !)

$P > \alpha$ for some μ “overcoverage”

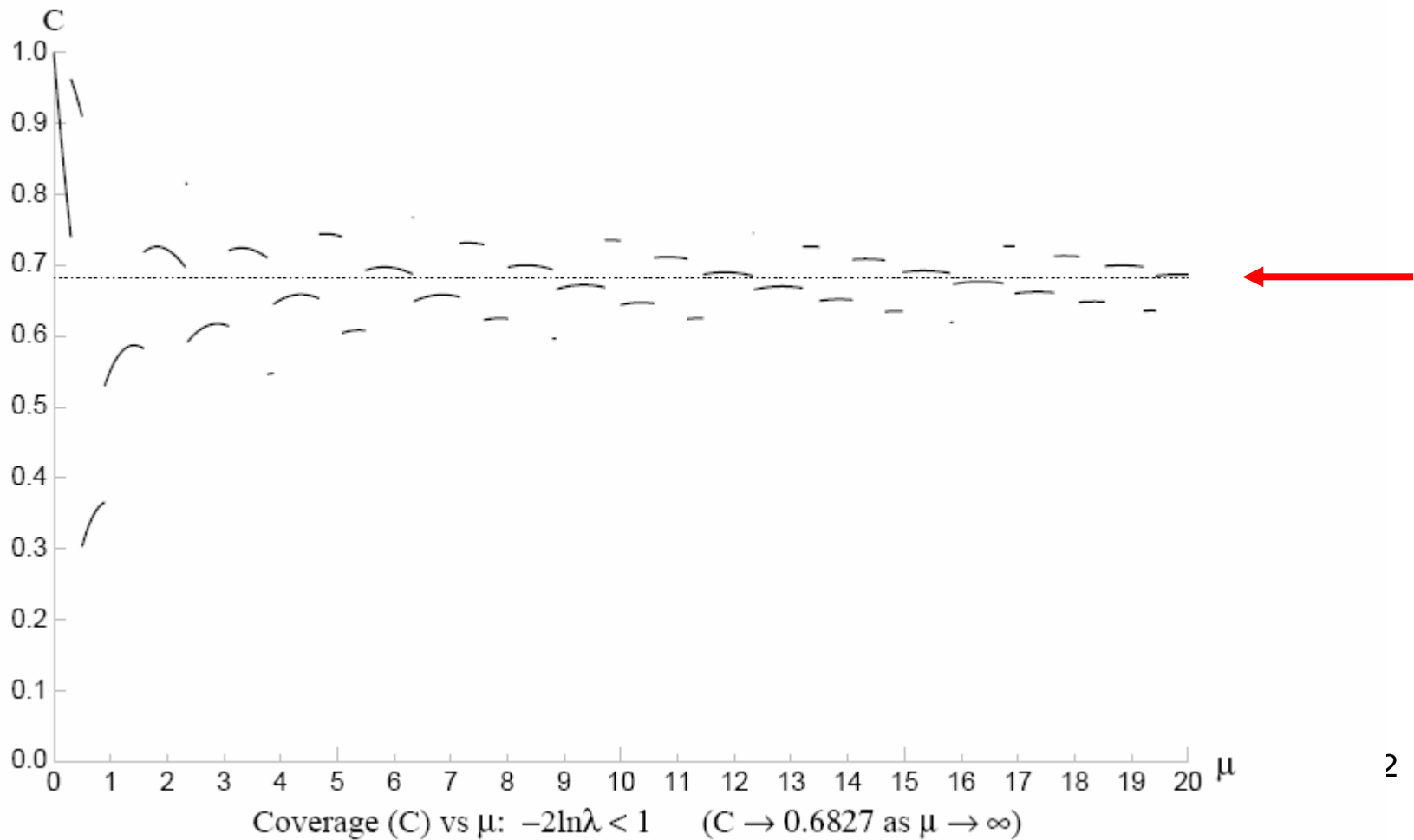
Conservative

Loss of rejection
power

Coverage : \mathcal{L} approach (Not frequentist)

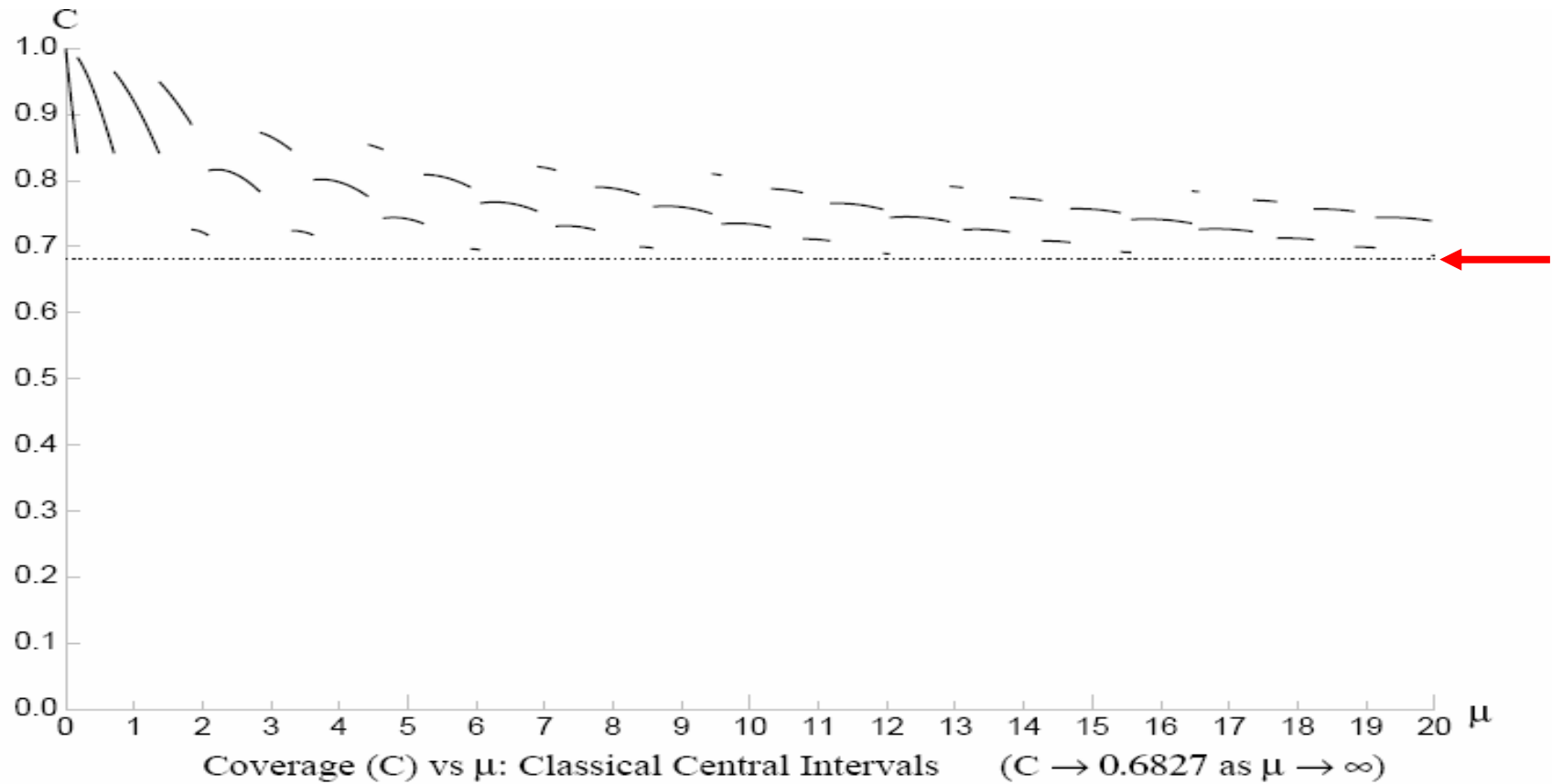
$$P(n, \mu) = e^{-\mu} \mu^n / n! \quad (\text{Joel Heinrich CDF note 6438})$$

$$-2 \ln \lambda < 1 \quad \lambda = P(n, \mu) / P(n, \mu_{\text{best}}) \quad \text{UNDERCOVERS}$$



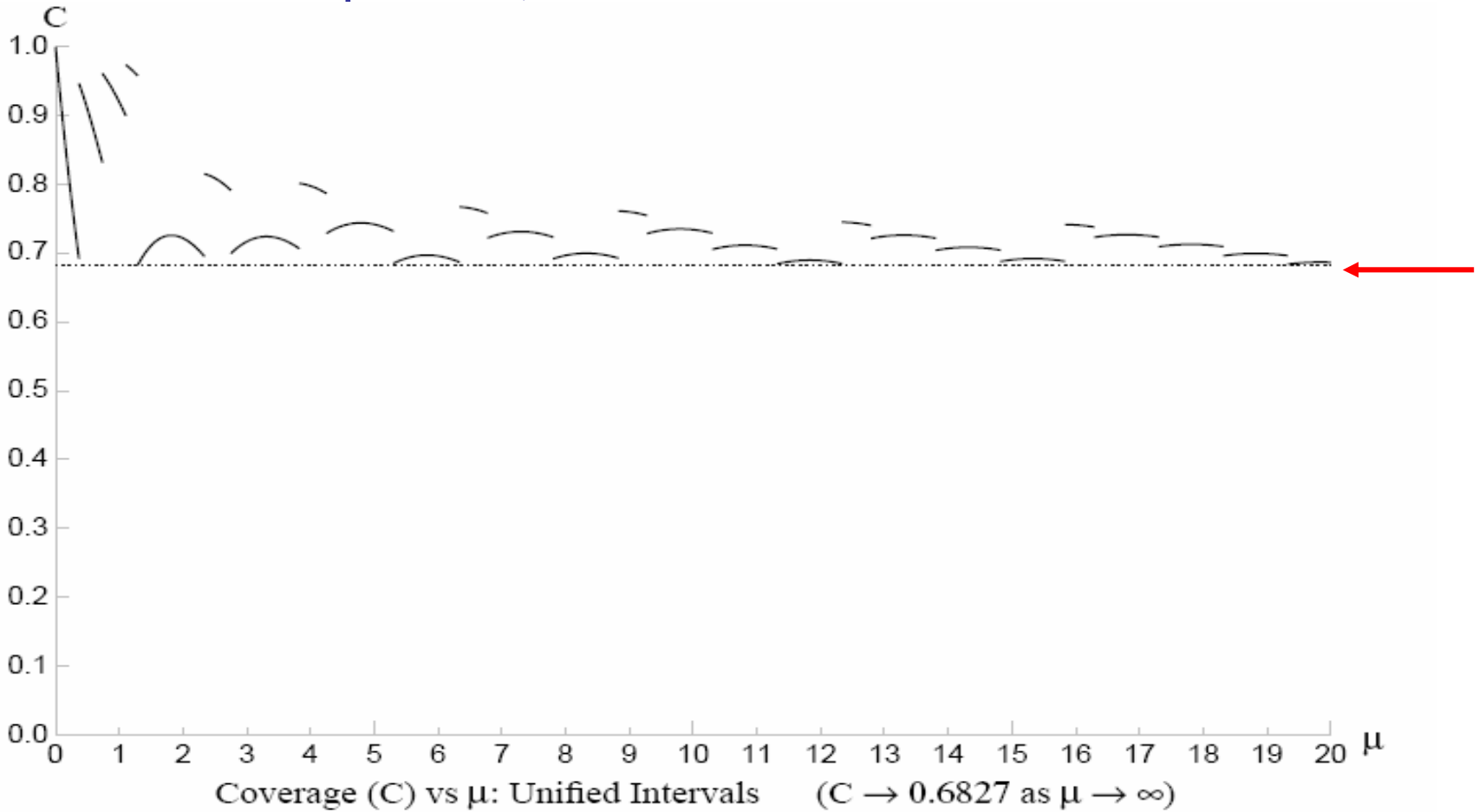
Frequentist central intervals, NEVER undercovers

(Conservative at both ends)

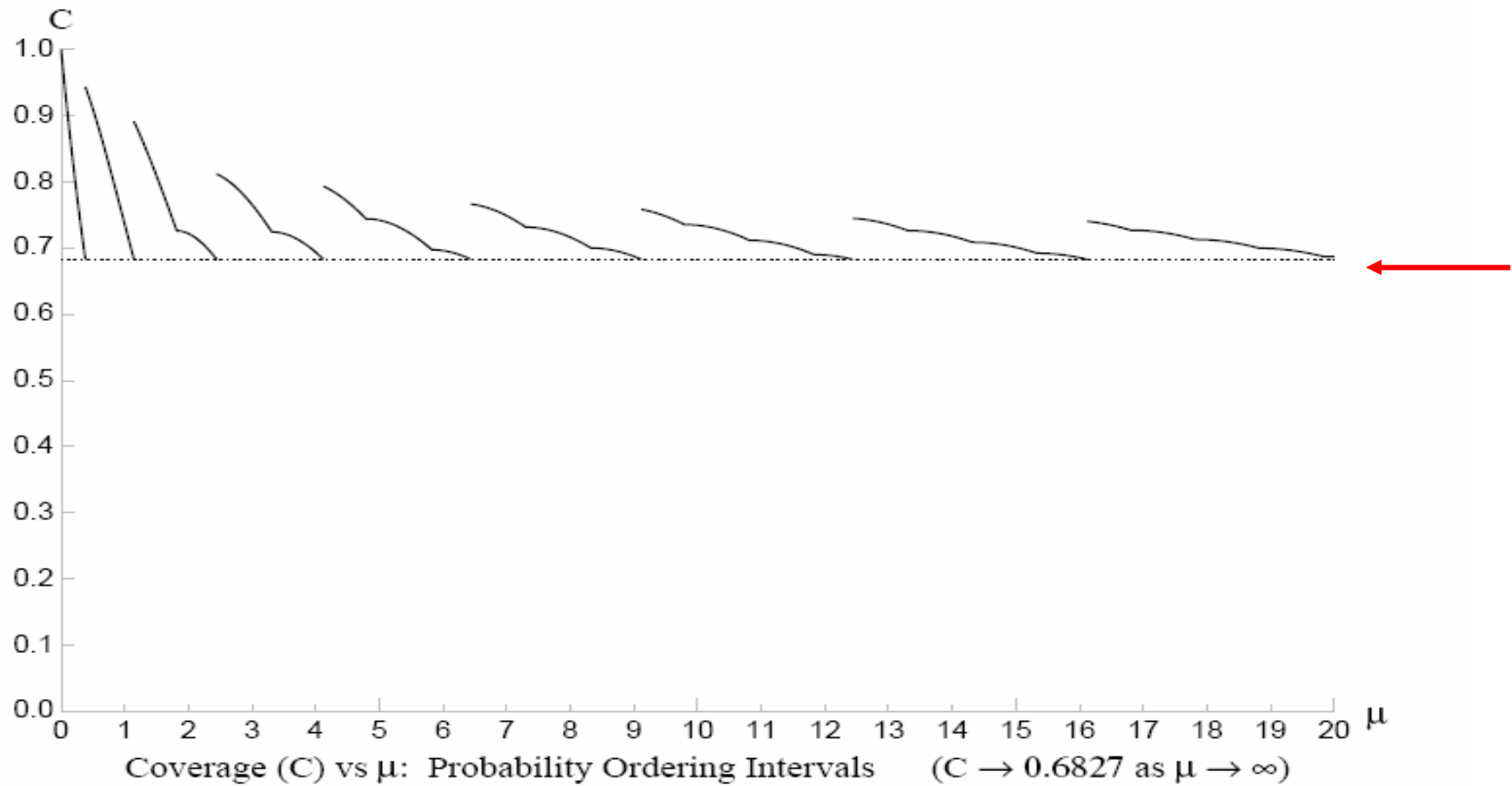


Feldman-Cousins Unified intervals

Frequentist, so NEVER undercovers

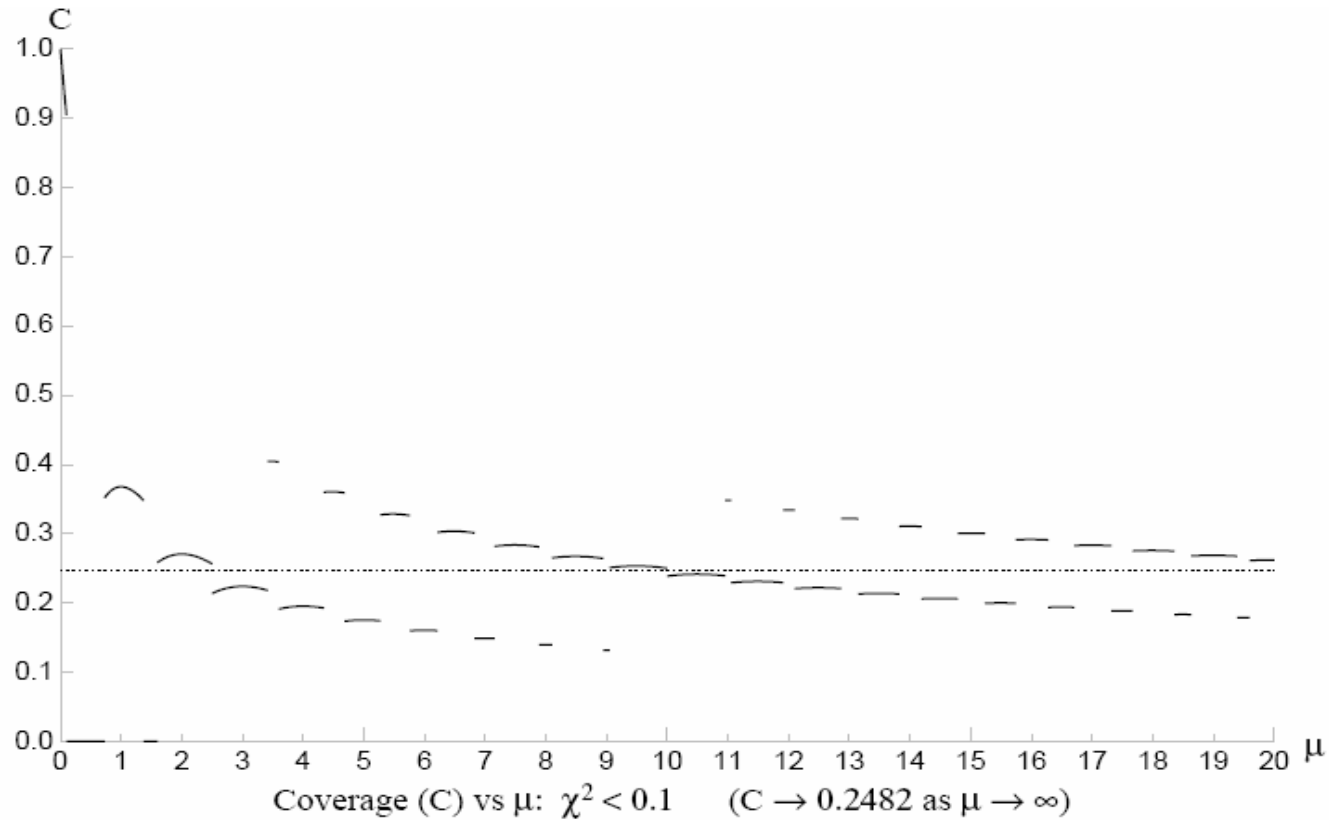


Probability ordering



$$\chi^2 = (n-\mu)^2/\mu \quad \Delta\chi^2 = 0.1 \longrightarrow 24.8\% \text{ coverage?}$$

NOT frequentist : Coverage = 0% \rightarrow 100%




Unbinned \mathcal{L}_{\max} and Goodness of Fit?

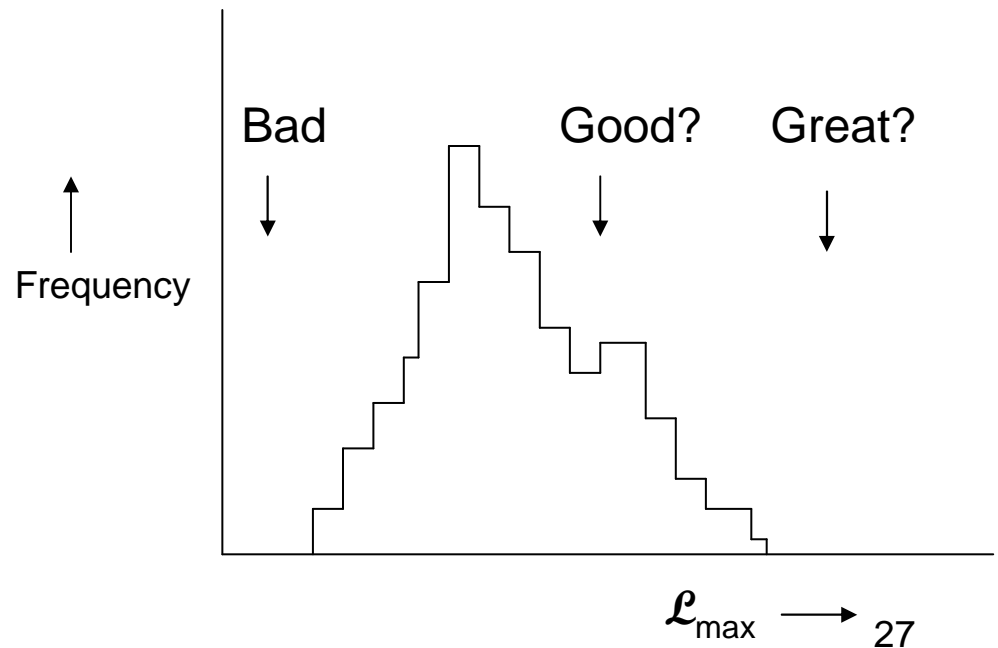
Find params by maximising \mathcal{L}

So larger \mathcal{L} better than smaller \mathcal{L}

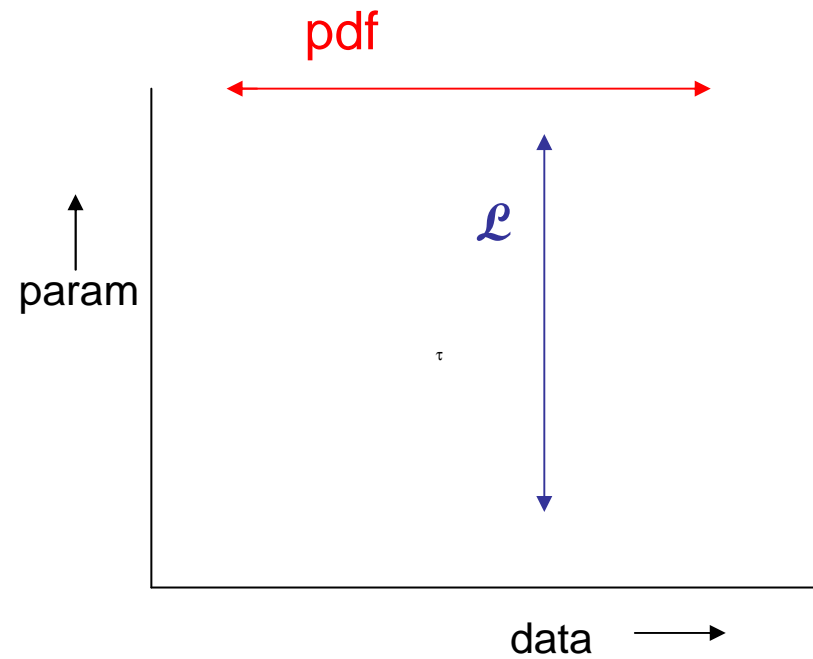
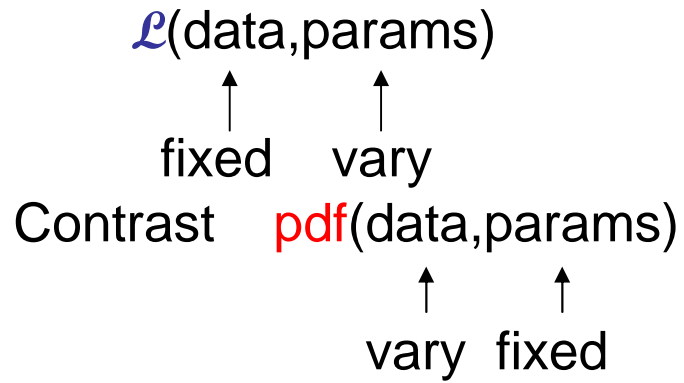
So \mathcal{L}_{\max} gives Goodness of Fit??

Monte Carlo distribution

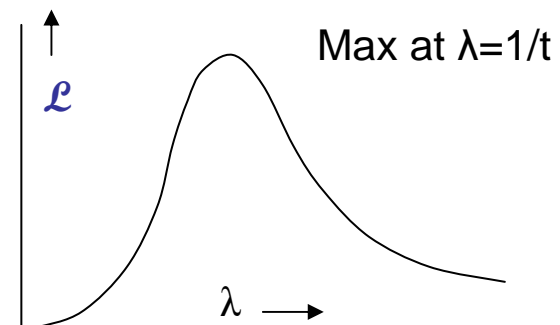
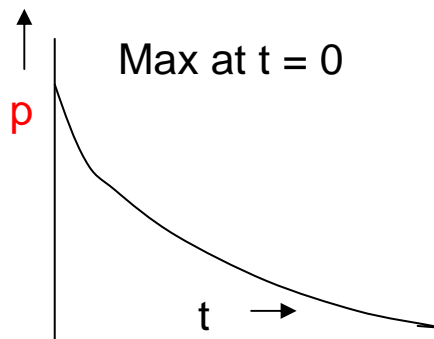
of unbinned \mathcal{L}_{\max} 



Not necessarily:



e.g. $p(\lambda) = \lambda \exp(-\lambda t)$



Example 1

Fit exponential to times t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots

[Joel Heinrich, CDF 5639]

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod \lambda \exp(-\lambda t_i)$$

$$\ln \mathcal{L}_{\max} = -N(1 + \ln t_{\text{av}})$$

i.e. Depends only on AVERAGE t , but is

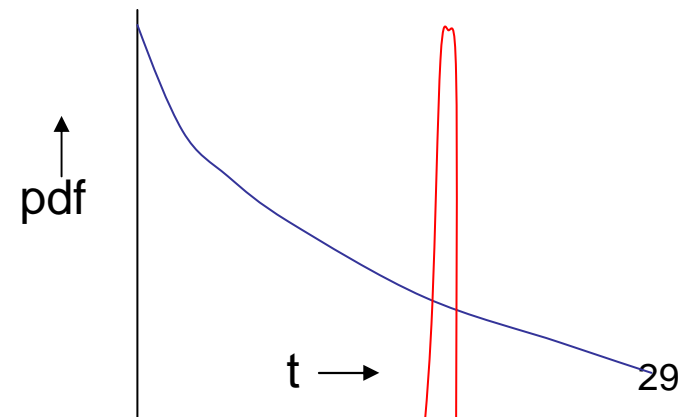
INDEPENDENT OF DISTRIBUTION OF t (except for.....)

(Average t is a sufficient statistic)

Variation of \mathcal{L}_{\max} in Monte Carlo is due to variations in samples' average t , but

NOT TO BETTER OR WORSE FIT

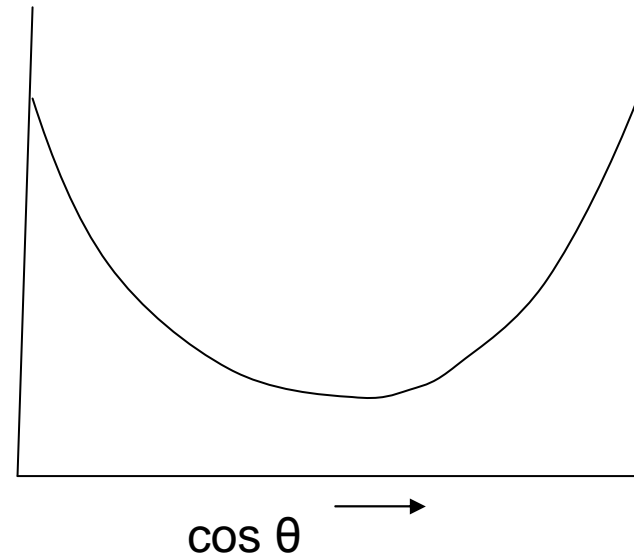
Same average t \longrightarrow same \mathcal{L}_{\max}



Example 2

$$\frac{d}{d\cos\theta} \frac{1+\alpha c^2 \theta}{1+\alpha/3} = 0$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_i \frac{1+\alpha c^2 \vartheta_i}{1+\alpha/3}$$



pdf (and likelihood) depends only on $\cos^2\theta_i$

Insensitive to **sign** of $\cos\theta_i$

So data can be in very bad agreement with expected distribution

e.g. all data with $\cos\theta < 0$

and \mathcal{L}_{\max} does not know about it.

Example of general principle

Example 3

Fit to Gaussian with variable μ , fixed σ

$$p = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2}$$

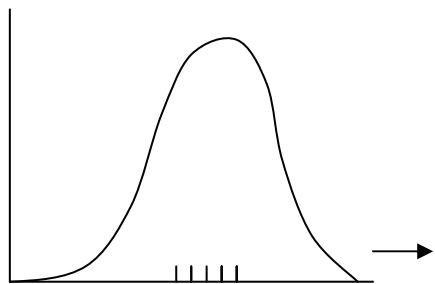
$$\ln \mathcal{L}_{\max} = N(-0.5 \ln 2\pi - \ln \sigma) - 0.5 \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{x_i - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^2$$

↑
↑
constant
ariance()

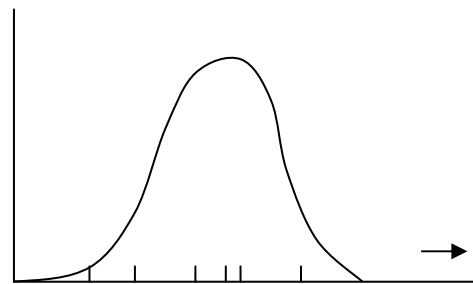
i.e. \mathcal{L}_{\max} depends only on variance(),

which is not relevant or fitting ($\mu_{\text{est}} = \mu_a$)

smaller than expected variance() results in larger \mathcal{L}_{\max}



Worse fit, larger \mathcal{L}_{\max}



Better fit, lower \mathcal{L}_{\max}

\mathcal{L}_{ma} and Goodness of Fit

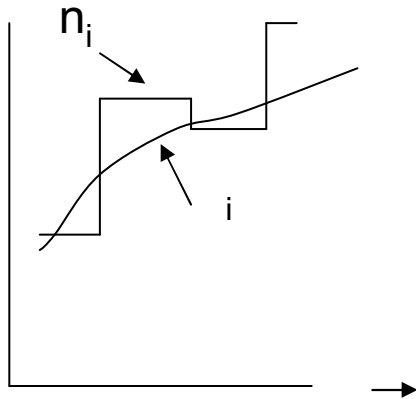
Conclusion

\mathcal{L} has sensible properties with respect to parameters
with respect to data

\mathcal{L}_{ma} within Monte Carlo peaks is C
not FF C

(necessary doesn't mean that you have to do it)

Binned data and Goodness of Fit using \mathcal{L} -ratio



$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_i P_{n_i}(\mu_j)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{est}} &= \prod_i P_{n_i}(\mu_{j,b}^e) \\ &= \prod_i P_{n_i}(\mu_j^s) \end{aligned}$$

$$\ln \mathcal{L}\text{-ratio} = \ln \mathcal{L} - \ln \mathcal{L}_{\text{est}}$$

$\xrightarrow{\text{large } i} -0.5\chi^2$ ie Goodness of Fit

i_{best} is independent of parameters of fit,

and so same parameter values from \mathcal{L} or \mathcal{L} -ratio

\mathcal{L} and pdf

Example 1: Poisson

pdf = Probability density function for observing n , given μ

$$P(n;\mu) = e^{-\mu} \mu^n/n!$$

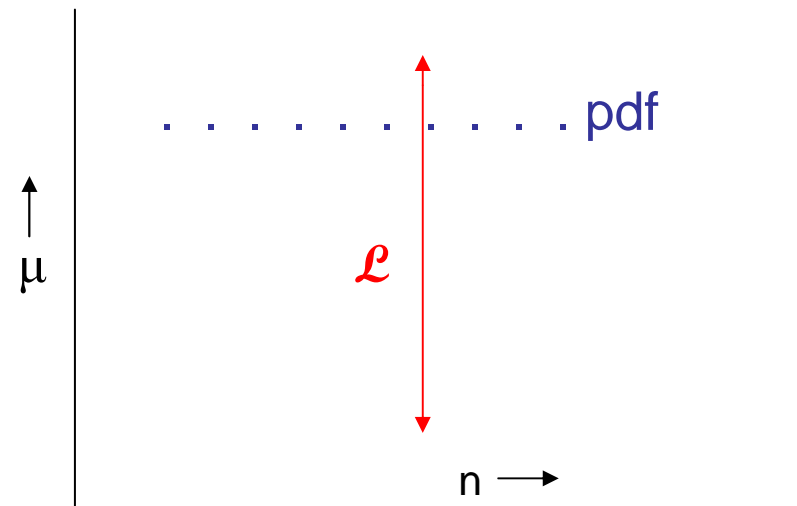
From this, construct \mathcal{L} as

$$\mathcal{L}(\mu;n) = e^{-\mu} \mu^n/n!$$

i.e. use same function of μ and n , but

for pdf, μ is fixed, but

for \mathcal{L} , n is fixed



N.B. $P(n;\mu)$ exists only at integer non-negative n

$\mathcal{L}(\mu;n)$ exists only as continuous function of non-negative μ

Example lifetime distribution

pdf $p(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t}$

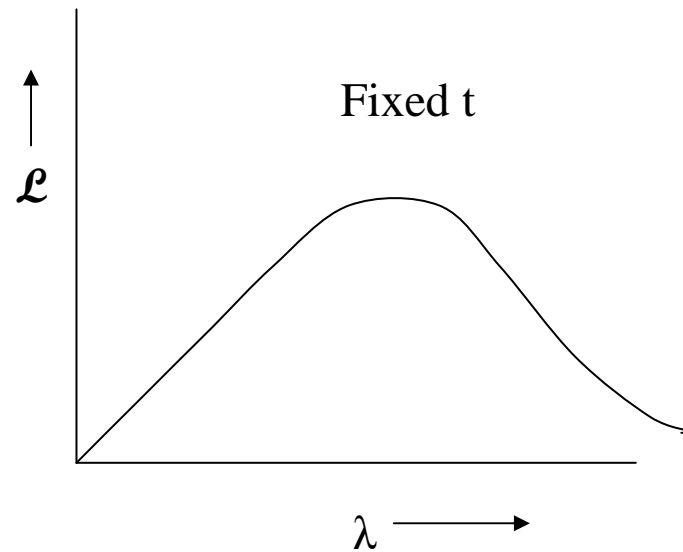
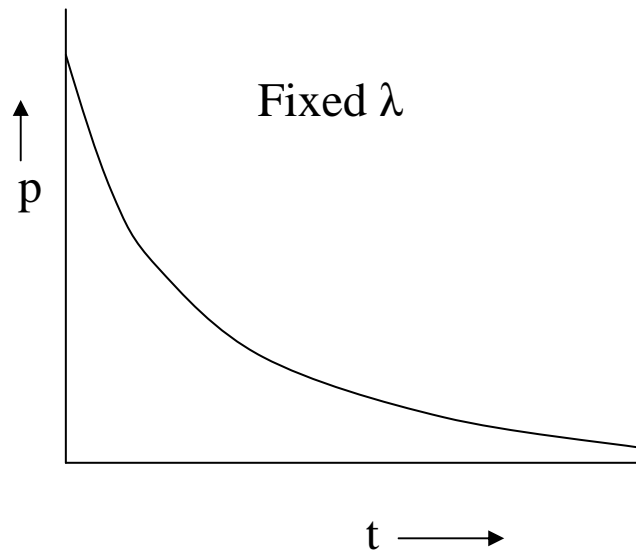
So $\mathcal{L}(\lambda; t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t}$ (single observed t)

Here both t and λ are continuous

pdf maximises at $t = 0$

\mathcal{L} maximises at $\lambda = t$

N.B Functional forms of $p(t)$ and $\mathcal{L}(\lambda)$ are different



ample aussian

$$p_d f(x; \mu) = \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\left\{ \frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right\}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\mu; x) = \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\left\{ \frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right\}}$$

In this case, same functional form for p_d and \mathcal{L}

so if you consider just Gaussians, can be used between p_d and \mathcal{L}

so examples and are useful

Transformation properties of pdf and \mathcal{L}

Lifetime example: $dn/dt = \lambda e^{-\lambda t}$

Change observable from t to $y = \sqrt{t}$

$$\frac{d}{n_d} = \frac{d}{n_d} \frac{d}{t_d} = 2y\lambda e^{-\lambda y^2}$$

So (a) pdf changes, BUT

$$(b) \int_{t_0}^{\infty} \frac{d}{n_d} \frac{d}{t} = \int_{\sqrt{t_0}}^{\infty} \frac{d}{n_d} \frac{d}{y}$$

i.e. corresponding integrals of pdf are
INVARIANT

low or \mathcal{L} likelihood

when parameter changes from λ to $\tau = 1/\lambda$

(a) \mathcal{L} does not change

$$dn dt = \tau \exp\{-t/\tau\}$$

$$\text{and so } \mathcal{L}(\tau;t) = \mathcal{L}(\lambda=1/\tau;t)$$

because identical numbers occur in evaluations of the two \mathcal{L} 's

BUT

$$(b') \quad \int_0^{\lambda_0} \mathcal{L}(\lambda;t) d\lambda \neq \int_{\tau_0}^{\infty} \mathcal{L}(\tau;t) d\tau$$

So it is NOT meaningful to integrate \mathcal{L}

(However,.....)

	pdf($t;\lambda$)	$\mathcal{L}(\lambda;t)$
Value of function	Changes when observable is transformed	INVARIANT wrt transformation of parameter
Integral of function	INVARIANT wrt transformation of observable	Changes when param is transformed
Conclusion	Max prob density not very sensible	Integrating \mathcal{L} not very sensible

C C

$$\int_{\rho, \rho}^{\rho_u} L d = \alpha \quad \text{reco nised statistical procedure}$$

etric dependent

τ range agrees with τ_{pred}

λ range inconsistent with $1/\tau_{\text{pred}}$]

BUT

- 1) Could regard as “black box”
- 2) Make respectable by $\mathcal{L} \implies$ Bayes’ posterior

Posterior(λ) $\sim \mathcal{L}(\lambda) * \text{Prior}(\lambda)$ [and Prior(λ) can be constant]

6) BAYESIAN SMEARING OF α

"USE $\ln \mathcal{L}$ FOR $\hat{\beta}$ & σ_p

SMEAR IT TO INCORPORATE SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES



SCENARIO:

$$n = \text{POISSON}(\mu = s\epsilon + b)$$

PARAM OF INTEREST \rightarrow s \uparrow ϵ \leftarrow BACKGROUND

$\underbrace{\epsilon \text{ EFFICIENCY / ACCEPTANCE}}_{\substack{\text{UNCERTAINTIES} \\ \text{MEASURED IN 'SUBSIDIARY' EXPT}}}$

$$P(s, \epsilon | n) = \frac{P(n | s, \epsilon) \pi(s, \epsilon)}{\iint \dots \dots \dots ds d\epsilon}$$

$$P(s | n) = \int P(s, \epsilon | n) d\epsilon$$

$$= \frac{\int \mathcal{L} \pi(s) \pi(\epsilon) d\epsilon}{\iint \dots \dots \dots ds d\epsilon}$$

e.g. $\pi(s)$ = truncated exp. $\pi(\epsilon) \sim e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{\epsilon - \epsilon_0}{\sigma})^2}$ **[BEWARE]**

i.e. SMEAR α (not $\ln \alpha$) by "prior" for ϵ

Getting \mathcal{L} wrong: Punzi effect

Giovanni Punzi @ PHYSTAT2003

“Comments on \mathcal{L} fits with variable resolution”

Separate two close signals, when resolution σ varies event by event, and is different for 2 signals

e.g. 1) Signal 1 $1+\cos^2\theta$

Signal 2 Isotropic

and different parts of detector give different σ

2) M (or τ)

Different numbers of tracks \rightarrow different σ_M (or σ_τ)

Events characterised by x_i and σ_i

A events centred on $x = 0$

B events centred on $x = 1$

$$\mathcal{L}(f)_{\text{wrong}} = \Pi [f * G(x_i, 0, \sigma_i) + (1-f) * G(x_i, 1, \sigma_i)]$$

$$\mathcal{L}(f)_{\text{right}} = \Pi [f * p(x_i, \sigma_i; A) + (1-f) * p(x_i, \sigma_i; B)]$$

$$p(S, T) = p(S|T) * p(T)$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(x_i, \sigma_i | A) &= p(x_i | \sigma_i, A) * p(\sigma_i | A) \\ &= G(x_i, 0, \sigma_i) * p(\sigma_i | A) \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\mathcal{L}(f)_{\text{right}} = \Pi [f * G(x_i, 0, \sigma_i) * p(\sigma_i | A) + (1-f) * G(x_i, 1, \sigma_i) * p(\sigma_i | B)]$$

If $p(\sigma | A) = p(\sigma | B)$, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{right}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{wrong}}$

but NOT otherwise

Giovanni's Monte Carlo for

$$A : G(x,0, \sigma_A)$$

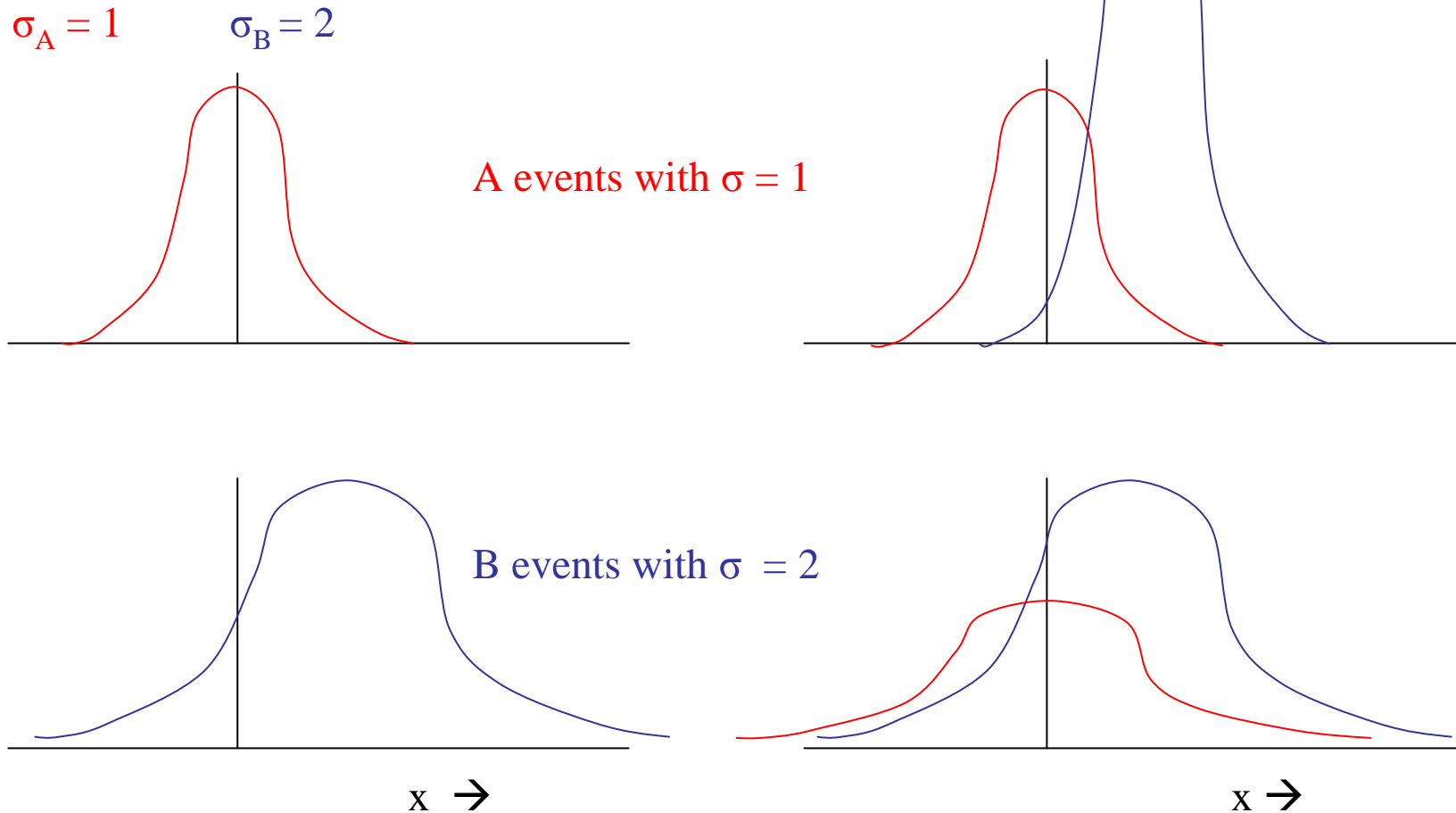
$$B : G(x,1, \sigma_B)$$

$$f_A = 1/3$$

σ_A	σ_B	$\mathcal{L}_{\text{wrong}}$		$\mathcal{L}_{\text{right}}$	
		f_A	σ_f	f_A	σ_f
1.0	1.0	0.336(3)	0.08	Same	
1.0	1.1	0.374(4)	0.08	0.333(0)	0
1.0	2.0	0.645(6)	0.12	0.333(0)	0
1 → 2	1.5 → 3	0.514(7)	0.14	0.335(2)	0.03
1.0	1 → 2	0.482(9)	0.09	0.333(0)	0

- 1) $\mathcal{L}_{\text{wrong}}$ OK for $p(\sigma_A) = p(\sigma_B)$, but otherwise BIASED
- 2) $\mathcal{L}_{\text{right}}$ unbiased, but $\mathcal{L}_{\text{wrong}}$ biased (enormously)!
- 3) $\mathcal{L}_{\text{right}}$ gives smaller σ_f than $\mathcal{L}_{\text{wrong}}$

Explanation of Punzi bias



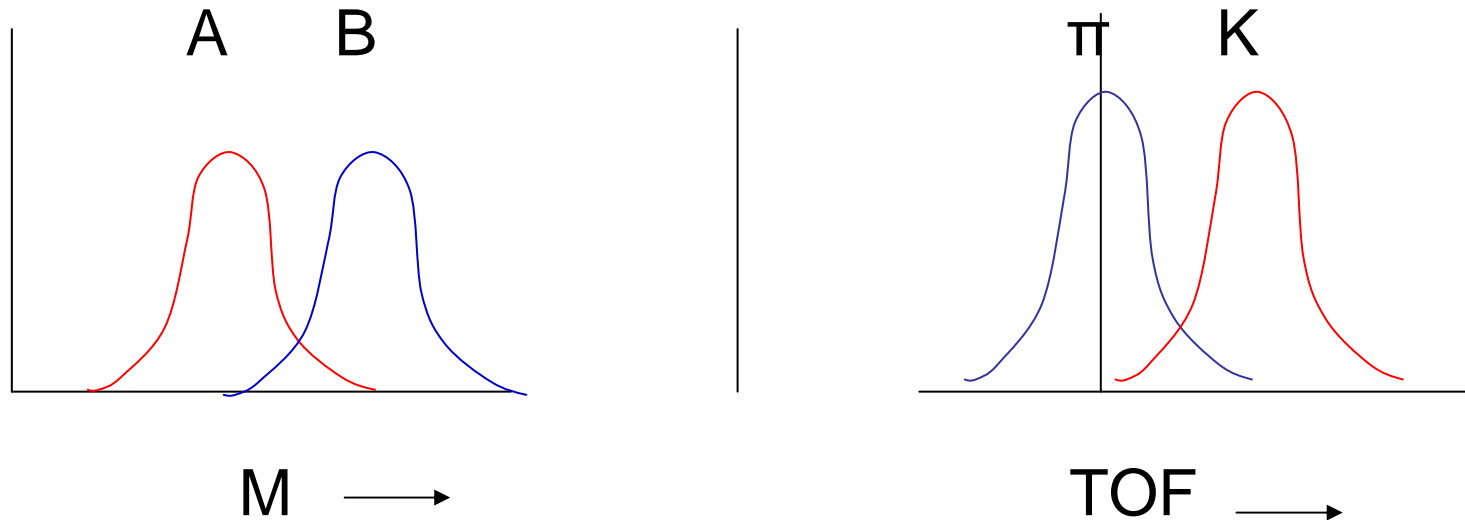
ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION

FITTING FUNCTION

[N_A/N_B variable, but same for A and B events]

Fit gives upward bias for N_A/N_B because (i) that is much better for **A** events; and
(ii) it does not hurt too much for **B** events

Another scenario for Punzi problem: PID



Originally:

Positions of peaks = constant

K-peak \rightarrow π -peak at large momentum

σ_i variable, $(\sigma_i)_A \neq (\sigma_i)_B$

$\sigma_i \sim$ constant, $p_K \neq p_\pi$

COMMON FEATURE: Separation/Error \neq Constant

Where else??

MORAL: Beware of event-by-event variables whose pdf's do not appear in \mathcal{L}

Avoiding Punzi Bias

BASIC RULE:

Write pdf for ALL observables, in terms of parameters

- Include $p(\sigma|A)$ and $p(\sigma|B)$ in fit
(But then, for example, particle identification may be determined more by momentum distribution than by PID)

OR

- Fit each range of σ_i separately, and add $(N_A)_i \rightarrow (N_A)_{\text{total}}$, and similarly for B

Incorrect method using $\mathcal{L}_{\text{wrong}}$ uses weighted average of $(f_A)_j$, assumed to be independent of j

Talk by Catastini at PHYSTAT05

Conclusions

How it works, and how to estimate errors

$\Delta(\ln \mathcal{L}) = 0.5$ rule and coverage

Several Parameters

\mathcal{L}_{\max} and Goodness of Fit

Use correct \mathcal{L} (Punzi effect)

Next time: χ^2 and Goodness of Fit

Least squares best fit

Resume of straight line

Correlated errors

Errors in x and in y

Goodness of fit with χ^2

Errors of first and second kind

Kinematic fitting

Toy example

THE paradox