

## Derivation of beta-binomial conjugate relationship

We seek to the posterior distribution of the parameter  $\phi$ , the probability of success on  $n$  trials with  $y$  successes:

$$[\phi|y] \propto \underbrace{\binom{y}{n} \phi^y (1-\phi)^{n-y}}_{\text{binomial likelihood}} \underbrace{\frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} \phi^{\alpha-1} (1-\phi)^{\beta-1}}_{\text{beta prior}}. \quad (1)$$

- ▶ Drop the normalizing constants:

$$[\phi|y] \propto \underbrace{\phi^y (1-\phi)^{n-y}}_{\text{binomial likelihood}} \underbrace{\phi^{\alpha-1} (1-\phi)^{\beta-1}}_{\text{beta prior}} \quad (2)$$

- ▶ Simplify:

$$[\phi|y] \propto \phi^{y+\alpha-1} (1-\phi)^{\beta+n-y-1} \quad (3)$$

## Derivation of beta-binomial conjugate relationship

- ▶ Recognizing from the beta prior in 2

$$[\phi|y] \propto \phi^{\overbrace{y + \alpha}^{\text{the new } \alpha} - 1} (1 - \phi)^{\overbrace{\beta + n - y}^{\text{the new } \beta} - 1}, \quad (4)$$

we let  $\alpha_{new} = y + \alpha$ ,  $\beta_{new} = \beta + n - y$  and substitute into the normalizing constant, obtaining  $\frac{\Gamma(\alpha_{new} + \beta_{new})}{\Gamma(\alpha_{new})\Gamma(\beta_{new})}$ .

- ▶ Multiply eq. 4 by the new normalizing constant  $\frac{\Gamma(\alpha_{new} + \beta_{new})}{\Gamma(\alpha_{new})\Gamma(\beta_{new})}$
- ▶ Voila, a new beta distribution informed by the prior and the data:

$$[\phi|y] = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_{new} + \beta_{new})}{\Gamma(\alpha_{new})\Gamma(\beta_{new})} \phi^{\alpha_{new} - 1} (1 - \phi)^{\beta_{new} - 1} \quad (5)$$

$$= \text{beta}(y + \alpha, \beta + n - y) \quad (6)$$

## Derivation of beta-binomial conjugate prior

Also see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKYvZF9wXkk>

where  $B(\alpha, \beta) = \left( \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} \right)^{-1}$