

# On the estimation of imprecise probabilities

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  - ▶ no estimator of  $[\underline{p}, \bar{p}]$  can be **consistent** under all sequences  $(p_i) \in [\underline{p}, \bar{p}]^{\mathbb{N}}$ , and the same holds for the estimators of  $[\inf p_i, \sup p_i]$  or  $[\liminf p_i, \limsup p_i]$  (since for example the deterministic model with  $p_i = x_i$  can never be excluded)

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- ▶ the weighted geometric mean  $lik_\alpha(P) = \overline{lik}(P)^\alpha \underline{lik}(P)^{1-\alpha}$  of the upper and lower likelihood functions is an interesting **compromise**, where  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$  can perhaps be interpreted as a degree of optimism;

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$$\frac{lik_{\frac{1}{2}}(P_1)}{lik_{\frac{1}{2}}(P_2)} = \sqrt{\frac{\overline{P}_1(A) \underline{P}_1(A)}{\underline{P}_2(A) \overline{P}_2(A)}}$$

is the geometric mean of the likelihood ratio most favorable to  $P_1$  and the one most favorable to  $P_2$

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- ▶ in the case with  $k$  categories, the maximum  $lik_\alpha$  estimates are precise if and only if  $\alpha \leq \frac{1}{k}$